

## Israeli satellite begins operation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's first commercial satellite, launched two months ago from French Guiana, is now fully operational, Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) said Wednesday. Amos 1, which can serve the Middle East and central Europe, completed tests and began providing services on July 1, an IAI statement said. It is expected to operate for 10 years. It will provide services for cable TV, Internet links and cellular phones. It will also serve as a link between hospitals and mobile medical units and between earthquake detection stations and seismology centers. Amos 1's main current subcontractors are Daimler-Benz Aerospace from Germany and Alcatel Espace from France. IAI also says it has an agreement with a Hungarian broadcasting company to use Amos 1.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز بوسيلة مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، الراي

## Turkish army defends Israel accord

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish army chiefs accused Arab critics of its military accord with Israel of having political motives, saying the agreement has great advantages. The Turkish Daily News reported Wednesday. Turkey and Israel signed the defence cooperation accord in February, four months before pro-Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan came to power in Ankara. Mr. Erbakan had previously denounced the accord, which lets Turkish and Israeli fighter planes share airspace for training. Several Arab countries, including Egypt, Iraq and Syria, have criticised the accord. Tehran and Damascus said it threatened their national security. "With this agreement we wanted to have these two Middle East democratic countries show an example to the other countries in the region," the newspaper quoted the Turkish army command as saying.

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## No lifting of bread subsidy, PM says

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has no intention of lifting subsidy on bread, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said during a meeting with journalists Wednesday. He said that bread subsidy should not benefit tourists, and non-Jordanian workers and livestock breeders. Any rise in prices will not affect Jordanian citizens, the prime minister affirmed.

Earlier in the day Minister of Labour Abdul Hafeth Shakanbeh also denied any government intention to raise the price of bread. Mr. Shakanbeh, who was speaking during a meeting with Federation of Jordanian Labour Union, said: "The government is studying a group of alternatives and any decision in this regard will take into consideration the interest of the poor and the disadvantaged who are the beneficiaries from government subsidy."

Also Wednesday Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said that any lifting of bread subsidy would not affect any poor Jordanians.

During a meeting with the Mafrqa Municipal Council, Dr. Tubeishat

said: "The decision to raise bread prices comes as a result of the economic situation in the Kingdom." He said the government was considering alternatives that would ensure an end to the waste of bread and a cut down in the JD200 million that the government spends on subsidy every year.

On Sunday, Al Dustour Arabic daily carried a front page story, quoting Minister of Supply Munir Sohar as saying that the price of a kilo of bread would be raised to 250 fils up from 80 fils as of July 15.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Sohar as saying that the decision to raise bread prices would in no way affect the low-income families who would be compensated for the difference between the present price and the suggested price. The minister said that compensation would only go to real beneficiaries who would be issued special supply coupons.

The minister said the rich, foreign labourers and tourists should not benefit from the treasury's subsidy.

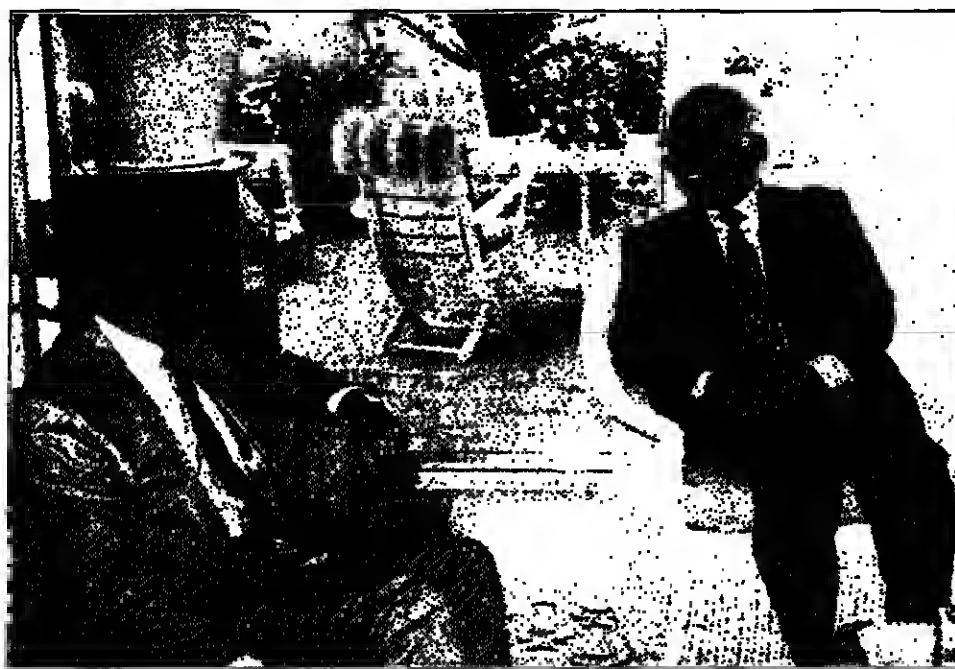
He pointed out that 35 to 40 per cent of the bread produced in the country went to those who could

afford the new prices. Al Dustour quoted Mr. Sohar as saying that the actual cost of a kilo of bread was 250 fils because wheat prices, which had jumped from \$ 175 per tonne in 1995 to \$ 280.

Criticising the government's intention to raise bread prices, a committee calling itself "the committee for the defence of citizens" on Sunday called for a series of actions of protests. In a statement circulated on Sunday, the committee called for organising protest marches all over the Kingdom after the Friday prayers on July 5, and for a two-hour sit-in in front of the Ministry of Supply on Saturday, July 6.

The National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) sent a letter to Mr. Kahariti demanding that the government maintain the current prices of bread and look for alternatives for reducing the burden on the treasury.

The society said a decision to raise bread prices would pose great dangers, and social imbalances, in addition to aggravating the suffering of tens of thousands of the poor and the jobless in this country.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind at the Royal Palace in Amman (Petra photo)

## King, Rifkind review ties, Middle East peace process

AQABA (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred in Amman Wednesday with British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and reviewed with him a range of regional issues particularly the peace process and prospects for progress in the light of the Israeli elections.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Rifkind said that Britain appreciated King Hussein's keenness on the establishment of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

In a press conference after the talks with the King, Mr. Rifkind praised the wisdom of King Hussein and his efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East region.

He said: "The discussions

centred on the current situation with regard to the Middle East peace process, other regional issues and Jordanian-British bilateral relations."

We believe the contribution King Hussein has made to continue the peace process is truly historic and I believe that we all benefit from his wise advice and massive experience with regard to these matters.

Mr. Rifkind said Britain "welcomed the outcome of the (Arab) summit in Cairo and I believe that Jordan has made an important contribution towards the success of that summit and we share with His Majesty the need to encourage the continuation of the peace process."

Asked about terrorism,

Mr. Rifkind said: "I believe it is indeed necessary to have much more effective international cooperation to deal with terrorism because terrorism is an international phenomenon and therefore it must be responded to by more international actions."

"The G-7 summit in Lyon called for exploring new ways of cooperation and a more effective action towards combating terrorism and we ourselves in the United Kingdom have put forward certain proposals which we believe will help in this direction and we will respond very constructively and positively also to the ideas coming from the others."

According to the British (Continued on page 7)

## King receives Assad invitation

AMMAN (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Assad has invited King Hussein to visit Damascus in further moves to heal the two-year lingering rift between the countries, Jordanian officials said Wednesday. The invitation was made "during their recent phone call," a senior Jordanian official said, asking to remain anonymous.

No date for the visit has yet been fixed but the King has "accepted the principle of this visit," the official said. The two leaders spoke by telephone on Monday after Mr. Assad sent the King a message via the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman. They had broken the ice for the first time since 1994 on the sidelines of the June 22-23 Cairo summit when they held private talks "to voice their mutual rapproches in a frank but cordial atmosphere," the official said.

The meeting was initiated by Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak.

Relations between the two countries soured when Syria accused Jordan of breaking Arab ranks by signing a separate peace deal with Israel in October 1994.

King Hussein earlier this year charged that Syria had closed its eyes to "terrorist attacks in Jordan" organised by radical Palestinian groups based in Damascus. He handed over to Mr. Assad a file of 56 failed operations which he said had been launched from Syria. But Mr. Assad told the King he "was not aware of such attempts," the Jordanian official added.

"We have reason to believe that Syria has already taken certain steps" to end such attacks, he added, but warned that so far "this is just a beginning and it is too soon to judge."

Meanwhile Syria on Wednesday urged Arab and Muslim states to unite and

(Continued on page 7)

## Musa makes 1st contact with Levy 'Egypt better off without U.S. aid'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt would be "better off" without American aid, a newspaper editor in chief considered close to President Hosni Mubarak wrote Wednesday, accusing Israel of seeking to blackmail Cairo through the U.S.

In an article titled "Blackmail" in his weekly Al-Masara, Makram Mohammad Ahmad said: "Egypt has long taken into consideration that American aid could be reduced or stopped in the long or short-term."

Cairo "will not allow this aid to be used as a weapon by the Israelis who will wave it whenever differences appear between Israel and Egypt in the peace process," he wrote. "I can all but guarantee that Egypt would be better off without this aid," wrote Mr. Ahmad, known to be a

close associate of Mr. Mubarak.

The editorial came after the Israeli press reported Sunday the Israeli government had geared its lobby in the United States to an anti-Egypt campaign after Cairo's harsh criticism of new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Egypt, the largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel, receives \$2.1 billion a year from Washington, \$1.3 billion of it for the military. "Clearly, the mounting campaign against Egypt aims to scare us into renouncing our role in strengthening Arab solidarity. But this blackmail will not dissuade Egypt," Mr. Ahmad wrote. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Saturday there were "points of difference"

(Continued on page 7)

## Palestinians, Israel clash head on over land-for-peace

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinian officials were angered Wednesday at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's open rejection of the principle of land-for-peace, warning it would destroy the Middle East peace process. "Throwing this principle into doubt amounts to sinking the whole of the peace process," said Palestinian legislative council member Hatem Abdul Kader.

Mr. Netanyahu said Tuesday he did not accept that Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab land in exchange for peace was the basis of the peace process, launched at the Madrid conference in 1991. "I don't agree that the Madrid conference includes land for peace," he told journalists.

Arab countries only took part in the Madrid conference after the United States gave them written assurances that negotiations would revolve around the principle of land for peace.

Mr. Netanyahu's comments caused a stir in the Palestinian legislature,

which is to meet in Ramallah on Thursday for a session chaired by President Yasser Arafat.

"We cannot accept a peace process that ignores this principle," Mr. Abdul Kader said, accusing Mr. Netanyahu of breaking the promise of his own Likud Party which was in power in 1991.

However, the Israeli right wing has always contested the principle. Former Premier Yitzhak Shamir who represented Israel in Madrid said he wanted "peace for peace" rather than peace for occupied territory.

Salah Tamari, another Palestinian deputy, said Mr. Netanyahu's comments went against the "spirit" of the Oslo autonomy accords which he has pledged to respect.

"If Israel continues in this vein and relaunches Jewish colonisation (of the territories), I will personally call for resistance and confrontation everywhere where Arab land will be seized," Mr. Tamari told AFP.

Nabli Abu Rudeina, a key Arafat aide, adopted a more cautious approach. "The outlines of the new Israeli government's policies are not yet clear," he said.

"We have not been officially informed that the (Israelis are) going back on the land-for-peace principle, and we must wait for things to be clarified on the Israeli side."

Nevertheless, Mr. Abu Rudeina said he hoped the United States "as the main sponsor of the peace process will not let this principle be thrown into doubt." Mr. Netanyahu is to visit Washington next week.

Opponents of the autonomy accords said Mr. Netanyahu had proved what they have been saying all along — that the agreements left Israel free to impose whatever conditions it chose on the Palestinians.

Mohammed Mokbel, a longtime critic, said: "The going back on the land-for-peace principle demon

(Continued on page 7)

## Exit poll shows Yeltsin winning reelection with 55% of votes

MOSCOW (AFP) — Boris Yeltsin will win reelection as Russian president with 55 per cent of the vote to 40 per cent for his Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov, according to a CNN exit poll.

The exit poll, with a three per cent margin of error, was carried out by the U.S. Mitofsky Institute, CNN said. The difference consisted of ballots cast against both candidates, as allowed for under Russian electoral law.

Early partial vote counts from the far east, a Yeltsin stronghold, showed him well ahead of Mr. Zyuganov in their runoff election.

In Irkutsk, one of the highest far eastern regions, Mr. Yeltsin was ahead with 65 per cent to Mr.

Zyuganov's 25 per cent, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

In Primorye, Mr. Yeltsin had 52 per cent and Mr. Zyuganov 39.

However, results still had to come in from the rest of the country, including Mr. Zyuganov's strongholds in the rural "red belt" south of Moscow.

An exit poll by the same institute for the first round on June 16 came close to the final result, Mitofsky giving Mr. Yeltsin a 32 per cent 29 per cent lead over Mr. Zyuganov. The final results gave Mr. Yeltsin a 35 per cent to 32 per cent advantage.

The Mitofsky poll hoisted Yeltsin supporters who had been worried by reports of a low turnout that could hand Mr. Zyuganov victory,

as analysts says his more disciplined voters were more likely to vote.

Meanwhile the Interfax News Agency said that with just four per cent of the vote counted Mr. Yeltsin was ahead of Mr. Zyuganov by about 20 per cent.

Mr. Zyuganov had 57 per cent, Mr. Zyuganov 36.5 per cent, the agency quoted sources as saying. Most of the votes counted were from the far east of Russia, a Yeltsin stronghold.

Yeltsin aides appeared confident that the Russian president would win the crucial run-off in the presidential elections and early trends mostly confirmed their forecasts.

Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of Mr. Yeltsin's (Continued on page 7)

## Journalists elect association president, council Friday

By Amy Henderson  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) will Friday elect a new president and nine-member council at a crucial point in the history of Jordan's press and its association.

Five candidates are vying for the presidency, on whose shoulders will rest the responsibility of reaching an agreement with the government on a new law governing the JPA as well as rejuvenating the union to a viable forum for advancing professional causes.

As of Wednesday evening, journalists speculated that general manager of Al Dustour and Vice President of the JPA Seif Al Sherif and former Al Ra'i writer Khaled Mahadin are predicted to win the first round of voting. If no one wins an absolute majority in the first round, a second round between the two candidates with the highest number of votes will decide the winner.

The 367-strong general assembly will also vote for a new nine-member council. The council has three

seats each reserved for newspaper owners, editors and employees at the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The owners are fielding only three candidates, while the editors and Petra have nine each.

Mr. Al Sherif and Mr. Mahadin, who has also served as the director of the Royal Press Office and as general manager of Petra, are joined by three other candidates, also with substantial professional experience.

Bassam Sakdijha, a former desk editor at Al Ra'i and former editor in chief

of Akher Habbar (a daily tabloid that folded) is purported to be favoured among several younger journalists along with Faisal Al Shboul, a journalist with Al Aswaq and the defunct Sawt Al Sha'ab and Salah Shboul, a former Petra writer. The three have very little chance of progressing to the second round of voting, journalists say, although each insists they have a good chance.

Of the union's 367 members, approximately 345 are eligible to vote. "Of these, we have to expect that a handful won't show up —

we are estimating that there will be around 330 who will turn up," said a source from within the JPA.

"We can't expect those three (candidates) to garner much support, since the two major dailies, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, have formed an alliance to throw their weight behind one candidate," he said.

This year, the management of Al Ra'i is expected to vote in favour of Mr. Al Sherif, in line with a gentlemen's agreement reached among the two dailies during the last election in 1994, whereby Al Dus-

tour's journalists voted for the current president, Al Ra'i chief editor, Suleiman Qudah.

In turn, Al Ra'i management, this year, are expected to support the Al Dustour candidate. The two papers have 60 and 54 members, respectively, in the association.

In addition to Al Ra'i's gentlemen's agreement with Al Dustour, said one journalist, "it's known that there is also a lingering personal grudge between the leadership of that

(Continued on page 3)

## Palestinians conduct first corruption probe

RAMALLAH, West Bank (R) — Palestinian lawmakers have recommended conducting a criminal investigation into what may be the first corruption scandal of their two-year-old self-government, legislators said on Wednesday.

Azmi Shuailhi and Hatem Abdul Qader said the Palestinian legislature's finance committee would hand over to the attorney general the files of a senior official suspected of abusing authority. Neither legislator would identify the official.

They said he held the rank of a minister but was not a member of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's cabinet.

A senior official had been under investigation by the legislative council's finance committee. We have found sufficient grounds to transfer his file to the attorney general to conduct a criminal investigation," Mr. Shuailhi, a committee member, told reporters in Ramallah.

Mr. Abdul Qader, who attended some investigative

sessions as a guest, said the allegations included laundering "large sums of money." He would not elaborate.

Palestinians have long accused some officials in Mr. Arafat's administration of corruption but no case has been investigated. Mr. Arafat set up a self-rule administration in 1994 after Israel handed over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Jericho enclave to the PLO under a self-rule deal.

Abdul Qader said Mr. Arafat was fully behind the council's efforts to crack down on alleged corruption in the Palestinian authority. Palestinian attorney general Khaled Al Qidra was not immediately available to comment.

Mr. Arafat flew to the West Bank town of Ramallah from Gaza on Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Palestinian legislative council on Thursday. Mr. Arafat's media adviser said the president planned to meet King Hussein in Jordan on Saturday.



# Levy threatens to quit Israel cabinet over Sharon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign Minister David Levy threatened Wednesday to resign if hardline nationalist Ariel Sharon is not given a ministerial post, dropping another bombshell on the troubled Israeli government.

Two weeks after it was first announced, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet is still in disarray with a promised post for Mr. Sharon failing to materialise and a squabble between orthodox parties over the religious affairs portfolio.

"If the problem of Ariel Sharon is not resolved before Mr. Netanyahu goes to Washington (on Sunday), I will resign," Mr. Levy announced Wednesday to MPs from the ruling Likud Party and its allies.

"That will make things easier by freeing up a portfolio," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu said he was shocked by Mr. Levy's ultimatum, made before television cameras. "This is not how negotiations are carried out," he told state radio.

However, he added: "We will find a solution."

Mr. Levy had already

embarrassed Mr. Netanyahu the day the new cabi-

net was announced on July 18, by refusing at the last minute to take up the foreign minister's post until Mr. Sharon was promised a portfolio.

Mr. Netanyahu relented and offered the Likud heavyweight a new super-ministry of national infrastructure, saying it would include a mix of responsibilities including energy, infrastructure, railways, roads and "other elements."

But the prime minister has not yet managed to persuade other ministers to give up control of these spheres for the new department.

Mr. Sharon, 67, who is holed up in his ranch in southern Israel in disgust, has voiced scepticism over Mr. Netanyahu's offer. He told state radio late Tuesday that the problems involved in creating the ministry "are not my problem."

Likud officials, quoted by the radio, said Mr. Netanyahu was inclined to leave Mr. Sharon out of the government. Otherwise he would have forced through the new ministry, they said.

Rafael Eytan of the rightwing Tsomet Party, another coalition partner, urged Mr. Netanyahu to give in. "We can end the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right), seated next to Foreign Minister David Levy, gestures as he reacts to Mr. Levy's threats during the first meeting between the ruling Likud Party and its Knesset (parliament) coalition partners Wednesday. Mr. Levy threatened Mr. Netanyahu at the public meeting by threatening to quit the new government unless a cabinet post was found for former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon by early next week (Reuters photo)

problem by simply bringing Sharon into the government," he said.

Another headache for Mr. Netanyahu is a dispute over the post of religious affairs minister, coveted by two of Likud's orthodox coalition

partners.

The ultra-orthodox Shas Party has warned it will pull out of the coalition on Friday if it does not get the post. Its rivals for the job, the far-right National Religious Party, has issued a

similar ultimatum.

Mr. Netanyahu, who still formally holds the religious portfolio himself, originally planned to give it to each party in turn for two years, but they have failed to agree on who will get it first.

Mr. Sharon, a veteran leader of Likud's far-right wing, is an outspoken opponent of Palestinian self-rule and an enthusiastic supporter of expanding Jewish settlements on the Palestinian territories.

He played a key role in Mr. Netanyahu's May 29 election victory by rallying votes from religious voters and settlers, and expected to be rewarded with the powerful finance or defence portfolios.

But Mr. Netanyahu, wary of giving his government too hawkish an image, refused. When Mr. Sharon turned down lesser posts he was left out of the government altogether until Mr. Levy's July 18 ultimatum.

As defence minister, Mr. Sharon oversaw Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and was forced to resign after an official inquiry held him "indirectly responsible" for the massacre of Palestinian refugees by a Christian militia allied to Israel.

He later served as housing minister, carrying out an intense expansion of Jewish settlements in the territories which helped sour relations between the Likud government and the United States.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanon blast wounds SLA militiaman

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — A pro-Israeli militiaman was injured on Wednesday when Hizbollah guerrillas set off a roadside bomb near his patrol inside Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone, pro-Israeli security sources said. They said the blast occurred when the South Lebanon Army motorised patrol travelled on the road leading to the Mashnaga outpost in the Jizzine area — a finger of land officially outside the zone but under Israeli control. In Beirut, the pro-Iranian Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack. Hizbollah guerrillas launch attacks against Israeli troops and their local militia allies in a bid to oust them from the 15-kilometre-wide zone they hold in South Lebanon.

### Egyptian police kill wanted militant

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Police shot dead a militant in a gunfight in southern Egypt on Wednesday, security sources said. Three others escaped. The police were searching through fields of sunflowers near the town of Abu Qurqas when they came under fire, they said. They shot back, killing Mohamed Salem Abdel Nadih, a wanted member of the militant Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic group), and they found an automatic rifle beside him, the sources added. Abu Qurqas is in Minya province, since late 1994 the centre of operations in the Gama'a's campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state. More than 960 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since the Gama'a took up arms four years ago.

### Hariri to visit Paris Thursday

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is to hold talks with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris on Thursday during a short working visit, officials said Wednesday. They will discuss the situation in the Middle East following the G-7 summit in Lyon, France and the June 22-23 Arab summit in Cairo. The two men are long-standing friends.

### Peres goes to U.S. to collect prize

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres set off for the United States on Wednesday to collect the Philadelphia Freedom Prize, his aides said. The prize was awarded jointly to King Hussein and Mr. Peres in recognition of the peace treaty signed between their two countries in October 1994. Last year it was awarded to former South African President Frederick de Klerk and his successor, Nelson Mandela.

### Night in brothel gets police into trouble

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A group of 30 policemen got a discount when they visited a brothel in Israel but are now paying dearly for their night out as the justice ministry investigates, the Maariv daily said Wednesday. The "men only" night for detectives and investigators was organised by their commander to boost morale at the Ashdod police station in southern Israel. They celebrated even more when the brothel, the Tropicana "Health Institute," gave them a discount, charging them 100 shekels (around \$30) each instead of the normal 160 shekels. But the police investigations department at the justice ministry was alerted and one policeman has been arrested so far, Maariv said. "My men simply wanted a good time and have not done anything wrong," an officer told investigators. Prostitution and kerb-crawling are illegal in Israel, even though police often turn a blind eye to the numerous massage parlours run by the "Russian mafia" in most major towns.

### Road rage in Lebanon leaves two dead

BEIRUT (AFP) — Two brothers have been killed and 12 people wounded in a gun battle caused by an outbreak of road rage in northern Lebanon, Lebanese newspapers reported Wednesday. The shooting erupted in the northern village of Majdala when two drivers stubbornly refused to give way at a crossroads Sunday. Supporters of each reached for their guns, and the army had to be brought in to restore calm. Three men were arrested and weapons and ammunition seized in house searches.

## Iraq, Syria hold talks on water

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Syria held talks in Baghdad on Wednesday on sharing the waters of the Euphrates River despite the absence of their upstream neighbour Turkey.

"Despite Syrian invitations, Turkey has declined to attend the committee's periodic meetings since 1994," Mohammad Munib Al Rifai, a senior official from the Syrian foreign ministry told Reuters.

Baghdad and Damascus accuse Turkey of threatening the quality and flow of the Euphrates River by building dams to harness its waters for power and irrigation.

Mr. Rifai said Ankara spurned repeated requests from Damascus to attend the meetings of their tripartite committee of experts to reach a permanent water-sharing accord.

"We (the committee) have entered the fourteenth year since we have begun, but we have not reached our target because the Turkish side is creating obstacles," he said.

He said Syria and Iraq have been holding periodic meetings in order to coordinate their stands on the water situation with Turkey in international and Arab League's meetings.

"There are no differences with our Iraqi brethren on this subject and both of us are keen to set up friendly relations with Turkey," he said.

Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, have no diplomatic relations. But the two arch foes strive to coordinate stands on water.

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers originate in Turkey. The Euphrates winds

through Syria before entering Iraq. The Tigris passes through Iraq.

The two countries largely rely on the two rivers for their water supply.

Syrian protests have grown since November last year when Turkey announced a finance plan worth \$1.62 billion for its fourth dam on the Euphrates to produce power and irrigation for a large chunk of southeastern Turkey.

Mr. Rifai accused Ankara of violating the international law by building several dams on the Euphrates without making prior contacts with Damascus and Baghdad.

He said Turkey was also not committing itself to an agreement it signed with his country in 1987 allowing the flow of Euphrates waters up to 500 cubic metres per second.

The official said the 1987 agreement was a temporary accord requested by Turkey to fill the Ataturk Dam, after which it would be reviewed.

The current amount was less than the needs of Syria and Iraq who largely depend the waters of the Euphrates for drinking, irrigation and electricity generation, he said.

"We will continue to raise the (water) issue in the Arab League and the United Nations and if it is not solved we will refer it to the International Court of Justice," he said.

The head of the Iraqi side to the talks, Abdul Sattar Salman, irrigation ministry under-secretary, declined to comment. The talks which are the second held this year between the two sides are scheduled to conclude on July 7.

## Netanyahu to give Clinton complaints list about Arafat

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to give U.S. President Bill Clinton a long list of complaints about Palestinian violations of the autonomy accords when he visits Washington next week, the daily Haaretz reported Wednesday.

Mr. Netanyahu, who has come under U.S. pressure to respect Israel's previous peace commitments, has insisted that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) must first keep its side of the deal.

The complaints list, which his advisor Dore Gold has already submitted to Mr. Arafat, accuses the Palestinians above all of infringing on Israeli authority over the borders of the self-rule territories.

It cites the signing of aviation accords between the Palestinian authority and several states "in violation of specific conditions of the (autonomy) agreement."

It also accuses Mr. Arafat of meddling in the affairs of Jerusalem, which Israel insists is its united capital, by naming Hassan Tabboub as minister for the waqf or Muslim sites in the disputed city.

The Palestinians for their part charge that Israel has violated the agreements by failing to pull its troops out of the West Bank town of Hebron despite a March 28 deadline, keeping Palestinian prisoners in jail and failing to create a "safe passage" between the self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to Israeli press reports, Mr. Arafat has also drawn up a set of complaints about violations of the accords which he has presented to the Israeli government.

Other complaints on Mr. Netanyahu's list, which runs into several pages, range from the Palestinians failing to pay their telephone bills to the Israeli company Bezeq to the problem of tens of thousands of cars stolen in Israel and taken to the territories.

The document also cites the kidnapping of Palestinians by Mr. Arafat's security services in areas outside their control. And it complains of "bad will" from the self-rule authority with officials transporting wanted people in their cars and making anti-Israeli speeches.

## Report: Palestinians selling their kidneys to Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — The government on Wednesday announced it was investigating a newspaper expose alleging that impoverished Palestinians were selling their kidneys for transplants in Israel.

The Maariv newspaper reported Tuesday that the black market in kidneys had been going on for several years. It said the kidneys

were generally sold for \$30,000. Most of the donors were Palestinians, but a minority were Israelis, Maariv said.

"If professional and legal experts find that laws were indeed broken, as described in the Maariv report, there will be no whitewash," said Health Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, announcing the inquiry.

Doctors performing illegal transplants are liable for up to 20 years in prison. Maariv's report cited three hospitals in the Tel Aviv area and one leading kidney surgeon as involved in the scandal. The investigation is to conclude within 30 days, the health ministry said.

Israelis enjoy a Western standard of living, with a

per capita income more than 10 times higher than in the West Bank and Gaza. The economic situation in the Palestinian areas has further deteriorated in recent months after Israel sealed them off in response to a wave of terrorist attacks. The measure keeps tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in Israel.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

TEL 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:40 Double Dragon (Cartoon)  
15:50 ... Tennis Wimbledon '96  
17:00 Children's Programme — Les Folles  
17:30 Varieties — Les Monde Est A Vous  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:15 ... Magazine — Ushuaia  
19:30 ... News Headline  
19:35 ... Here's Lucy  
20:00 ... Varieties — Caratara  
21:10 ... News in English  
22:00 ... Star Trek  
22:25 Feature Film — "The Switch"  
23:59 Comedy — Family Affairs

### PRAYER TIMES

05:55 ... Sunrise  
06:30 ... Sunrise  
12:40 ... Dhuhur  
16:30 ... Asr  
19:50 ... Maghrib  
21:24 ... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweidat, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622346  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### ST. EPHRAIM CHURCH

Tel. 771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 674190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
A heat wave will affect the Kingdom for the next days causing an acute rise in temperatures of 6-9 degrees centigrade. Winds will be non-heavily moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.  
Amman ..... 24/40  
Aqaba ..... 28/43  
Deserts ..... 20/42  
Jordan Valley ..... 26/42  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 40, Aqaba 42 Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khafdi Maternity ..... 64281/6  
Al-Khaleel Maternity ..... 64244/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malthas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 607071  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi ..... 894788  
Dr. Bassam Karadshah ..... 759200  
Dr. Khaled Abdo ..... 657129  
Dr. Salman Daboubi ..... 776751  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
IRBID: Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr ..... 276852  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... 671111  
ZARQA: Dr. Samir Al Lawzi ..... 990312  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417  
EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199 ..... 637777  
Rescue Police 192 ..... 621111  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khafdi Maternity ..... 64281/6  
Al-Khaleel Maternity ..... 64244/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malthas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
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Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

### AMMAN MUNICIPALITY COMPLAINTS

787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.  
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 ..... Sanza (RJ)

### QUEEN ALIA HOSPITAL

02240/50  
674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865190  
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09483323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09480560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09486732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09499029/1  
IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ..... 0275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 0272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... 021247100  
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03814111

### DEPARTURES

09:15 ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
10:10 ..... Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
10:35 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
17:30 ..... London (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
17:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Rome (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
01:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
02:55 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
Other Flights  
06:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
08:05 ..... Jeddah (add) (SV)  
13:40 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:40 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
20:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
23:40 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
00:25 ..... London (RJ)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
03:35 ..... Antalya (TK)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
19:45 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)

### ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS

03:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
04:00 ..... Riyadh (add) (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Marka, Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
06:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:20 ..... Athens (RJ)  
13:25 ..... London (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Samaa (add) (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)  
23:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
04:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

### OTHER FLIGHTS

04:00 ..... Athens (OA)  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
07:25 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
07:45 ..... Beirut, London (BA)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
09:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (SV)  
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF)  
15:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:30 ..... Algiers (AH)  
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
23:55 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
00:40 ..... Antalya (TK)

### ROYAL WINGS (RW) FLIGHTS

10:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
20:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

### HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upperhouse price in Jds per kg.  
Apricot ..... 750/500  
Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (mukharra) ..... 520/520  
Banana (imported) ..... 860/600  
Cabbage ..... 120/80  
Carrot ..... 140/80  
Cauliflower ..... 300/220  
Cucumber (large) ..... 120/80  
Cucumber (small) ..... 200/120  
Eggplant ..... 210/150  
Garlic ..... 650/400  
Lemon ..... 800/500  
Marrow (large) ..... 150/100  
Marrow (small) ..... 240/160  
Mulkhiyah ..... 130/80  
Onion (dry) ..... 130/80  
Okra ..... 850/600  
Orange ..... 400/300  
Peanut ..... 480/350  
Peach ..... 670/400  
Pepper (hot) ..... 340/220  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 400/280  
Potato ..... 300/180  
Siring Bean ..... 450/380  
Sweet melon ..... 280/180

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Pepper (hot) ..... 340/220  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 400/280  
Potato ..... 300/180  
Siring Bean ..... 450/380  
Sweet melon ..... 280/180



Prince Hassan talks to members of the Upper House of Parliament. Petra photo.

## Prince Hassan re-attends Palestine

AN PETRA — Their highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Haya will visit the Jordanian Telecommunications Corporation (JTC) in Amman on Wednesday. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for a few days. The Crown Prince and Princess will be staying in Amman. They will be visiting various institutions and organizations. They will also be meeting with officials. The visit is part of a tour of the country. The Crown Prince and Princess will be accompanied by a delegation of officials. They will be met by JTC officials at the airport. The visit is expected to last for





HRH Crown Prince Hassan talks to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi on arrival at Amman Airport (Petra photo)

## Prince Hassan returns home Jordan says no to proposal to settle Palestinian refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home after visits to the United Kingdom and Canada, where Prince Hassan held talks with officials and attended meetings on inter-faith relations.

Speaking to Jordan Television on arrival, the Crown Prince announced that the World Bank's consultancy group will hold a meeting on the question of Palestinian refugees in the coming few days and that in his discussions in Canada, which chairs the group's meeting, Jordan rejected the idea of settling the refugees outside their own homeland adding that Canada supported Jordan's views.

The refugee problem he added should be resolved within the concept of the international legitimacy and international principles, he said. Jordan demands either compensation for the Palestinian refugees or repatriation and demands also that the Kingdom's shouldering of the heavy burden of the refugees for the past 40 years be fully recognised.

As to the economic situation Prince Hassan said Jordan will hopefully overcome the present difficulties because various economic organisations have shown real understanding of the Jordanian position and role in the region.

Referring to the political situation in the Middle East

he said that the countries of the region are bound to cooperate in political, developmental and security fields and that these countries could not achieve stability without security, and could not build for peace in the absence of political stability.

The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath were received at the airport by the Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, speakers of Parliament and other senior officials.

Returning with the Crown Prince also were their Royal Highnesses Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan and Princess Badia Bint Al Hassan.

## IATA regional office in Amman opens Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — Geneva-based International Air Transport Association (IATA) will open a Middle East regional office based in Amman as of July 8, Mr. Munib Touqan Royal Jordanian (RJ) Assistant Executive President for Public Relations, said Wednesday.

The IATA decision, Mr. Touqan said, reflects the importance of Amman as a regional centre for IATA's operations.

Asked how this office would benefit Jordan and the region, Mr. Touqan said that it would organise

training programmes for pilots, and offer technical advice to member countries in the region.

Minister of Transport Naser Lawzi and IATA's Director General Pierre Jeannot will sign the agreement on Monday, Mr. Touqan said.

Meanwhile, the director of RJ's new City Terminal, Mutaseem Ouran, said Wednesday that 17 per cent of the airline passengers used the terminal in the last month. A similar office in eastern Amman near Marka airport is planned for the

future, Mr. Ouran said.

He said that RJ was considering more terminals in other parts of the Kingdom.

When the Amman terminal opened at the Seventh Circle on May 27, RJ said that passengers could check-in at any time of the day or send someone else to do the job on their behalf.

Once a passenger checks in at the terminal, he/she can depart to the airport only 45 minutes before flight time using RJ buses or their own private cars.

## Journalists elect president Friday

(Continued from page 1)

paper and Khaled Mahadin. And this factor, he claims, is even weightier than the agreement struck between the management of the two papers.

"It's also known that the government is backing Al Sherif," said a correspondent for a West Bank paper.

Mr. Mahadin has on several occasions been highly critical of the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, particularly with regards to its hard-line stand against Iraq.

"It's a process of elimination rather than of election or selection," the correspondent said.

The vote of Petra, with 85 eligible members, is a bit more unpredictable.

Some purport that the majority of those votes will go to Mr. Mahadin, since under the previous government, he was able to secure a raise for Petra employees in his capacity as director of the agency.

Other sources, however, say that Mr. Al Sherif is gaining some late support due to the fact that a victory for him would ensure a

smooth relationship with the government.

Votes from Petra will be critical for both candidates; so will be the votes from weekly papers.

For the first time in the association's history, the nation's two major newspapers cannot rely solely on support from their own ranks, since employees from these establishments and Petra no longer constitute a safe majority of the association's general assembly. Last year, the JPA initiated nearly 100 new members, the majority from the ranks of Jordan's growing number of weekly papers.

That brought the total number of members outside of the Al Ra'i-Al Dostour-Petra bloc to 165 — compared to a mere 52 in 1994.

The campaign for their votes is fierce, and it is believed that Mr. Mahadin, who now is a contributor to some of these publications, may enjoy greater support than Mr. Sherif from those quarters. Mr. Sakikjha, however, might be the candidate with the greatest support from the tabloids

— especially that he enjoys a great deal of support from the younger generation of journalists, often employed at these fledgling papers.

Protest votes will also play a role, said a candidate for the council.

Many from the Al Ra'i ranks do not consider the agreement struck between its management and Al Dostour to be binding to them, and assert that the management has no right to guarantee their votes. Petra voters as well, may lodge protest votes, because they feel the government favours Mr. Al Sherif.

Journalists, however, said they have little faith in the elections, and claim that the true issues are eclipsed by personal and political rivalries that have come to outweigh very pressing issues facing the organisation and its future.

"I'm not a member yet," said a young reporter from a weekly paper. "I should be sworn in by the end of this year, but I hope that by that time, the president and the council can confront the real issues that face our profession."

## Ministry rejects Aqaba waste facility proposal

By Francesca Ciriaci  
and Samir Hijawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following a report on the management of hazardous wastes in the Kingdom published Wednesday in Al Rai Arabic daily, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdel Razaq Tubeishat said the Environment Protection Council (EPC) has rejected a project proposal jointly presented by a Jordanian and a U.S. company to build a toxic waste facility in Aqaba.

The JD 13.4 million plan, drafted by the EBA Wastechonologies in the U.S. and Al Mabrouka Trading Company, was initially addressed to Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Hunaidi at the beginning of May.

The Ministry of Planning had referred the project proposal to the EPC one month ago, for further study and analysis.

The decision to reject the EBA-Al Mabrouka plan was announced Wednesday by Dr. Tubeishat, who is also chairman of the EPC.

He said the plan was rejected because another project, for the building of a hazardous waste site in the desert area of Swaga, in southern Jordan, supported by the government and officially presented during last October's Middle East and North Africa economic summit, had already been adopted.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday quoted the minister as saying that there were also unanswered questions as to where the wastes would be coming from and what type of wastes would be involved.

Experts had told the Jordan Times earlier that the Kingdom has already been the victim of incidents of unauthorised entry of hazardous wastes from other countries in the past and that each project presented for the construction of a

toxic waste facility should be carefully analysed and "looked at with healthy suspicion."

The project proposal presented by EBA Wastechonologies and Al Mabrouka included a "light mobile or fixed-base hazardous waste incinerator at the port (of Aqaba)... augmented by a modern computerised laboratory to allow Jordan to protect itself from entry of unauthorised or unusually hazardous cargoes and wastes."

But the fact that the proposal stated that "(the site) would also accept contaminated bilge water from ships visiting the Aqaba region," may have constituted in itself a reasonable basis for the "healthy suspicion" the experts talk about, and thus the rejection by the government.

International media reports have repeatedly unveiled the profitable business behind the management of toxic and radioactive wastes world-wide and

pointed to many incidents of radioactive wastes from rich countries being dumped without authorisation in remote and underprivileged areas.

The letter addressed to the Minister of Planning by the U.S.-Jordanian joint venture claimed that the project aimed at "protecting the environment of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea" and stressed that a survey in the Aqaba area was conducted in November 1995 to choose a suitable location for the toxic wastes facility.

While, according to the project proposal, "the U.S. Trade and Development Agency has approved a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to prepare a comprehensive feasibility study and economic analysis" for the Aqaba facility, the government's alternative plan for the Swaga facility is still awaiting financing.

The delay in the start of the works at the Swaga project have given the U.S.

company EBA one more argument to use in support of the Aqaba waste facility option: "Swaga facility project will not even start before the year 2000," EBA said, stressing that "a viable business can be developed addressing Jordan's needs (for the management of hazardous wastes)."

Government officials said that radioactive uranium from hospitals and electric power plants, together with contaminated oils from metallurgical factories, could be defined as the main hazardous wastes troubling Jordan.

Dr. Tubeishat denied that any foreign countries have approached Jordan with a proposal to dump their own toxic wastes in the Kingdom in return for payment. "Jordanian law does not allow any waste from any foreign country of any kind whatsoever to enter the Kingdom, even under payment of billions of dollars," the Minister of Environment said.

## Government to look into police procedures

AMMAN (I.T.) — The government will look into complaints of ill-treatment of detainees and procedures applied at different police stations and prisons, a news-report said Wednesday.

The report, in Al Aswaq, said that a committee chaired by the ministry's secretary general Khamis Abu Salim will mainly deal with non-Jordanians in administrative detention for a long period of time without due justification or reasons, and procedures followed during house arrest.

The committee would look at the procedures applied during detention of people at police stations for long periods pending

interrogation, the report said.

The committee would also deal with issues pertaining to impounding the passports of foreign nationals or the passports of their Jordanian sponsors along with other documents pending court verdicts.

The committee will also be entrusted with handling the question of house searches that have been conducted in illegal manner as well as detention of people despite their acquittal from court.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday receives Yemeni Premier Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani who heads the Yemeni side to the joint Jordanian Yemeni Higher Committee meetings (Petra photo)

## 2 hot days forecast

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the East Mediterranean region are currently under the effect of a high level pressure centred in the Arabian peninsula and causing temperatures to soar to 40 degrees centigrade during the coming two days the Department of Meteorology said Wednesday.

The department said that the heat wave which is accompanied by a drop in humidity will be mostly affecting the mountainous regions raising temperatures by six to nine degrees above annual average.

The department noted that the heat wave will cause desert storms particularly in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. It said that such heat waves are a rarity at this time and that temperatures reaching up to 42.2 degrees were recorded in July in the past three years.

## Newspapers cautioned over Abu Khajil case

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Press and Publications Department on Wednesday cautioned newspapers that it was illegal to publish the proceedings and minutes of the court sessions in the case against the former honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Jordan, who is standing trial in a baby-sale scam involving Sri Lankan domestic help.

Mohammad Amin, director of the Press and Publications Department, sent letters to the Jordan Times and other newspapers, ordering them not to publish court proceedings and news item concerning this case.

Mr. Amin said this order was in accordance with the provisions of the Press and Publications Law, which he said, "bans the publication of court proceedings and investigations before the issuance of a final verdict and permission from the court."

The article in the law Mr. Amin was referring to is Article 42.

Mr. Amin said in his letter that he was acting upon a ruling by the Amman Criminal Court where the former honorary consul, Tawfiq Abu Khajil, is being tried.

Prosecutor General Mamoun Mneizel had asked the court in a June 22 session to ban the press from covering the hearings because "it reflected negatively on the course of the case."

"Some of the witnesses were hesitant to testify in court because they did not want their names to be published in the press,"

Mr. Mneizel told the tribunal.

Formal charges against Mr. Abu Khajil, a Jordanian businessman who served as Sri Lanka's honorary consul until he was fired by the Colombo government following his arrest, include use of forged documents, issuance of false certificates, sale of babies (illegal under a 1929 law against slavery), possession of unlicensed firearms, import of illegal wireless devices, abuse of trust and forgery of a government seal.

Also standing trial beside Mr. Abu Khajil, is a Sri Lankan citizen named Anourma G.L., who is accused of agreeing to sell her baby to foster parents, and Andrea Bustani, 37, a Lebanese woman who was Mr. Abu Khajil's secretary.

Ms. Bustani, who was out of the country when the arrests were made, remains at large and is being tried in absentia.

The case erupted when police at Queen Alia International Airport stopped a Dutch couple while attempting to leave the country with a five-month old boy whom they thought they had legally adopted for \$8,000.

A similar notice by the Press and Publications Department was issued on Dec. 18, 1995 in the case of Jordan Engineers Association President Leith Shbeilat who was sentenced to three years in prison for slandering Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### SEVENTH FUBEIS FESTIVAL

**\* Concert by renowned musician Sayid Makhawi on Thursday at 9:00 p.m.**

**\* Concert by Juries Hazzam on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.**

**\* Seminar entitled "Arabic Drama — Facts and Aspirations" with the participation of Osama Anwar Al-Khatib, Jamil Aywad, and Reem Sa'adah at the residence of late Khalil Minid on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.**

**\* Exhibition on Arab cities, Jordanian figures, Arab press, books, hand-made products, and others.**

#### FILMS

**\* "Jannat Jannat" at Institut Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.**

**\* "Monsieur Rose Magritte" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Sherif) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibich at 6:00 p.m.**

#### EXHIBITIONS

**\* White and black paintings exhibition of works conducted in half a century (1913-1966) entitled "Heureux Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 20.**

**\* Ceramics exhibitions at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street (Tel. 699141/2), until July 25.**

### PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED

The regional office of a well established international company requires QUALIFIED BANKERS & ACCOUNTANTS for the following positions in its offices in Amman.

1. Assistant to the Treasury Manager
2. Assistant to the Legal & Tax Manager

**The applicant should be:**

- \* Holding an accounting degree preferably from a British or American university. The membership of a professional body (CA, CPA, etc...) will be an asset.
- \* Age between 30-40 with a minimum of 5 years experience.
- \* Fluency in professional Arabic and English.

The company is offering good starting salaries and other benefits with EXCELLENT career opportunities. Applicants should indicate which position they apply for and are required to submit a hand-written application and enclose their CV in English with a recent personal photograph to the following address:

Area Manager  
P.O.Box 940093  
Amman 11194  
Jordan



# Rebels say Rwanda troops fighting inside Burundi

NAIROBI (R) — Burundian rebels Wednesday accused Rwandan troops of "invading" Burundi to fight in support of the government army and vowed to oppose by force any foreign military intervention.

The Hutu rebel National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD) said the government Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) invaded northwest Cibitoke province Saturday to back Burundi's army.

Both government armies are dominated by Tutsis.

"They are fighting hand in hand with the Burundi army against our forces in the communes of Mugina and Mabayi," CNDD east Africa representative Innocent Nimpagaritse told a news conference.

"More than 5,000 civilians have left the combat zone and fled to Zaire while many others have been killed by them."

In Rwanda's capital Kigali, an official said it was "absurd" to say Rwandan troops were in Burundi.

"It is not our policy to send troops beyond our borders. We also have too many security problems...CNDD is trying to derail a serious initiative to send foreign troops to Burundi," said Claude Dusaidi, a senior adviser to Rwanda's defence minister.

"But the foreign mission is going ahead and we should see some results by the end of the month," Mr. Dusaidi told Reuters.

The CNDD, the main Hutu rebel movement in Burundi, also slammed plans for "security assistance" involving Ugandan and Tanzanian troops requested by Burundi's Hutu president and Tutsi prime minister to halt a worsening civil war.

They gave in to intense international pressure at a summit in Arusha, Tanzania

on June 25. CNDD was not invited to Arusha.

Massacres and ethnic war between the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels in Burundi have killed more than 150,000 people in the past three years. One million people, mostly Tutsis, were killed in a Hutu-led genocide campaign in Rwanda in 1994.

"CNDD will coexist any foreign armies entering national territory as invading forces and will deal with them accordingly by opposing resistance by force," said Mr. Nimpagaritse, adding the rebels were angry at not being consulted over the plans.

"It is the army and government which asked for such help. Those forces are coming to help those who asked for them...The invading forces are coming to do the job of the Burundian army," Mr. Ndaruhagiye said.

CNDD demanded an international inquiry into what it said was the massacre of more than 1,000 Hutu civilians at Nyeshenza in Cibitoke on June 27 by Burundian soldiers with RPA support.

U.N. officials said Tuesday 2,510 Burundian Hutus from the same area fled into southwestern Rwanda at the weekend, saying they were escaping killings and destruction of homes.

Foreign aid officials could not comment on the rebel charges as they suspended all aid operations in Cibitoke in early June.

Diplomats said the regional security assistance plan envisioned a foreign force of mainly Tanzanian and Ugandan troops to protect politicians, civil servants and key installations.

Militants of Burundi's Tutsi minority also oppose the plan.

## Megawati camp banned from Indonesian poll

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian government will not permit a political faction headed by opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri to contest the 1997 parliamentary elections, the official Antara News Agency said Wednesday.

Mr. Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's late founding President Sukarno, was ousted from the leadership of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) at a meeting of a dissident faction in the city of Medan last month.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Surjadi was elected in her place, but Ms. Megawati says the meeting was illegal and that she and her supporters constitute the legitimate PDI.

"Only the PDI executive board formed at the congress in Medan will be invited to any activity organized by the National Election Institute (LPU)," Antara quoted Interior Minister Yogie Suardi Memet as saying.

Mr. Memet said the LPU would only accept a list of candidates from the Surjadi-led faction for the next parliamentary elections, which are scheduled to be held in mid-1997.

Indonesia only recognises three political parties, the PDI, the ruling Golkar and the Muslim-based United Development Party (PPP). The LPU, which is headed by Mr. Memet, approves all candidates for the parliamentary elections.

The minister was quoted by Antara as saying Wednesday that Mr. Surjadi and his camp needed to consolidate the party.

"Give them a chance to work," he was quoted as saying. The agency also said Armed Forces Commander

General Feisal Tanjung had met Mr. Surjadi and his camp.

Ms. Megawati and her supporters have said they would challenge the legitimacy of the Medan meeting in court.

About 200 Megawati supporters from the party's branches in Jakarta staged a noisy protest at the city council Wednesday, denouncing the congress and Mr. Surjadi.

"We reject what is called the PDI congress in Medan because it is against the party's statutes," they said in a statement read by one of the protesters.

The protest held inside the council's lobby was watched by anti-riot police. It ended without violence.

Analysts say the government backed the rebels because it fears Ms. Megawati would draw votes from Golkar during the elections and perhaps contest the 1998 presidential polls.

President Suharto, who took over from Sukarno in the mid-1960s, has never been opposed in the six times he has stood for president. He is widely expected to seek a seventh term.

General Tanjung was quoted by Antara as saying Tuesday that violence during protests by Ms. Megawati supporters was aimed at destabilising the government.

About 5,000 supporters of Ms. Megawati clashed with troops in Jakarta on June 20, the day the rebel congress opened. About 100 people, including both demonstrators and troops, were injured in the clashes.

Ms. Megawati's supporters have continued protest demonstrations almost daily since then, but there has been no violence.

## Packed Ukraine tram derails; 32 killed

KIEV (R) — A rush-hour tram packed with factory workers ran off the rails and smashed into a concrete barrier in an eastern Ukrainian city Tuesday, killing 32 people and injuring at least 50, police said.

An Interior Ministry spokesman in the region said the accident occurred at about 6 p.m. in the industrial city of Dniprodzerzhinsk as the tram was travelling down a steep slope.

"The tram was taking workers home from an industrial zone after their shift. There were at least 100 people on board," the spokesman said by telephone.

"It was going down a slope and when it went around a corner and the brakes failed, it left the rails at high speed, skidded across a road and hit a concrete barrier."

He said 29 people had died at the site of the accident and three in hospital.

Government officials said Health Minister Yevhen Korozenko and a number of the former Soviet republic's top medical specialists had flown to the region to treat the injured.

The cause of the accident was being investigated. President Leonid Kuchma proclaimed Wednesday a day of mourning.

He also ordered the cancellation of all events scheduled for Wednesday to commemorate the approval by parliament last week of Ukraine's first post-Soviet constitution.

Police said the tram was an old Soviet model, like many dilapidated buses and trams in use in Ukraine. Public transport tends to be heavily packed even at off-peak times.

In a similar accident in August 1994, seven people died when a tram derailed in the eastern coal mining centre of Lugansk.



Actress Margaux Hemingway is shown in a scene from the 1976 film *Lipstick*. Hemingway, 41, was found dead in her Santa Monica, California apartment on July 1 (Reuters photo)

## Death of Hemingway blamed on natural causes

LOS ANGELES (R) — An autopsy performed Tuesday on the body of actress-model Margaux Hemingway, a granddaughter of famed novelist Ernest Hemingway, showed that she apparently died of natural causes, officials said.

But it will take at least two weeks for investigators to receive the results of key laboratory tests to determine whether Hemingway may have taken a fatal drug overdose, said Scott Carrier, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

The badly decomposed body of the 41-year-old Hemingway was discovered in her bed in her modest studio apartment near Santa Monica beach Monday, 35 years after her famous grandfather was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Investigators who performed Tuesday's autopsy were unable to pinpoint exactly what killed Hemingway, but Mr. Carrier said "everything seems to lead to natural causes."

He said Hemingway suffered from epilepsy and the coroner's office was looking into whether she may have died of an epileptic seizure.

But Mr. Carrier said investigators would not make any final conclusions until they receive the results of toxicological tests, which could show whether her death may have been caused by drugs or alcohol.

Hemingway's body was discovered by friends who were worried because they had not seen her for several days. Police said there were no signs of suicide, drug abuse or foul play.

Blonde and 6-feet (1.8-metres) tall, she was one of the world's top models by age 20. But Hemingway, the older sister of 34-year-old actress Mariel Hemingway, battled alcoholism and eating disorders. Friends said she had recently become depressed about her stalled acting career.

She was the daughter of Ernest Hemingway's first son Jack, and her death comes one day shy of the 35th anniversary of her grandfather's death.

The wife of the Nobel Prize-winning author claimed he accidentally killed himself while cleaning his shotgun in his Ketchikan, Idaho, home on July 2, 1961, but some friends and family members said he committed suicide.

Margaux Hemingway's death continues a grim family legacy. Her grandfather — author of such classics as *For Whom The Bell Tolls* and *A Farewell To Arms* — battled depression, alcoholism and nervous breakdown. His own father committed suicide.

Hemingway became a highly paid supermodel in the 1970s promoting a line of fragrances made by Fabergé. She made her Hollywood debut with her younger sister, Mariel, in the 1976 movie *Lipstick*.



Hillary Rodham Clinton (left) arrives with Yolanta Kwasniewska (centre), wife of the Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and a guide, near the main gate of the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## Mrs. Clinton praises Polish women, pledges U.S. aid

WARSAW (AFP) — U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton Wednesday hailed the central role of Polish women and announced \$700,000 in aid on the final day of her visit to Poland, which she devoted to women.

"Women are key to building civil society, and progress and prosperity in every country, including yours and mine," Mrs. Clinton said in a speech marking the second and last day of her Polish visit, which is part of a seven-nation Central and Eastern European tour.

Addressing some 100 people at the palace on the water in Lazienki, former summer residence of Poland's last King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, Mrs. Clinton said: "I recognise the important role that women have played through Poland's history."

Referring to the struggle against communism, led by Solidarity leader and former

President Lech Walesa, she said: "I know that in the days of Solidarity, women were the backbone of the underground press. Some of those same women lead Poland's modern journalistic establishment today."

Mrs. Clinton also announced \$700,000 in aid to Polish non-governmental organisations through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the "democratic network" programme.

Under the scheme, Poland has been awarded \$3.5 million since the start of 1995 for welfare, environmental and educational projects.

Mrs. Clinton earlier Wednesday met representatives of women's organisations and women politicians, notably from the former Communist Democratic Left Alliance.

During the first day of her Polish visit Tuesday, Mrs.

Clinton paid tribute to victims of the Nazi Holocaust as she visited the former death camp at Auschwitz.

She also met members of the Jewish community in Warsaw.

From Poland, Mrs. Clinton will travel on to the Czech Republic, continuing her tour, which began in Romania and is widely perceived as an attempt to win over Jewish and East European communities in the United States as a boost to President Bill Clinton's chances of winning November elections.

Mrs. Clinton's spokesman Neel Latimore said the tour was aimed at demonstrating U.S. support for new democracies in the region, formally under Communist rule.

The first lady will also visit Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia and Finland.

## Floods hit 15 Bangladeshi districts

DHAKA (AFP) — Thousands of Bangladeshis took shelter on roofs and embankments Wednesday from worsening floods as the country's political opposition blamed neighbouring India for the disaster.

Flash floods from monsoon rains and the run-off from heavy storms on nearby hills in India have hit 15 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts, officials said. Two people have been killed since the flooding started last week.

The capital, Dhaka, was among the low-lying areas swamped.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed Wednesday alerted troops and government agencies and urged local people to aid flood victims.

"Keep constant watch on the situation and take effective measures to face the disaster," she said.

The order came as the premier, only 10 days in office, faced her first crisis in a country plagued by natural calamities, while her political rival blamed India for the disaster.

Khaleda Zia, chief of the opposition Bangladesh Na-

tionalist Party, issued a statement calling on Mrs. Hasina to rush aid to flood victims.

"Due to the opening of all the barrages of (the) common rivers upstream in India, flash floods" have submerged many areas, the statement also said.

Rivers and canals have burst their banks and road links in Khagrachari and Rangamati in the southeast have been cut. The road from Sylhet to Dhaka was closed after part of the Karang Bridge and the main highway was washed away.

Among the affected districts are Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Pabna in the north, Bogra in the west, and the tea-growing districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Moulvibazar in the northeast. The south-eastern resort of Cox's Bazar has also been affected.

An official in Gaibandha said nearby villages were worst hit and that the water was approaching the town. "Aid is being organised for the affected," he said.

Flood experts and meteorologists warned that water levels in the major Brahmaputra, Ganges and Jamuna rivers continued to rise "slowly" Wednesday, but they were still below what is considered the danger mark.

The government's Meteorological Department said because of two possible lows in the Bay of Bengal this month, more rains were likely in the coming days.

The flooding has caused widespread damage or destruction to homes and crops.

In Sherpur, district officials said that water level was decreasing in the north and was static elsewhere. "The situation will improve if there is no fresh rain," he said by telephone.

With the floods, residents in some districts have fallen victims to river erosion as gushing flood waters washed away chunks of soil, reports said.

With 230 rivers running through this low-lying country, Bangladesh is plagued by annual flooding. In 1988, more than 2,200 people were killed, in the worst toll in 40 years.

## Paper: Charles, Diana to divorce in 2 weeks

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana will be divorced within two weeks, a British newspaper predicted Wednesday.

The Daily Mirror, a top-selling tabloid, said Buckingham Palace would issue a statement the week after next saying a settlement had been reached and Princess Diana would be granted all she had demanded since she agreed to the divorce in February.

"If royal lawyers keep their guarantees a decree nisi will be obtained, paving the way for a full divorce in six weeks," the newspaper said.

Under the settlement which lawyers have been haggling over for months, Princess Diana will receive a lump sum of £15 million (\$23.3 million), keep the title Her Royal Highness, continue to live at Kensington Palace in central London and be allowed to work as a roving ambassador for her charities.

The princess, 35, will be told of the terms of the agreement on Thursday or Friday. If she is not satisfied with the settlement the divorce will not go ahead and Prince Charles will be forced to wait until the end of next year to obtain a "no-consent" divorce, the newspaper added.

Buckingham Palace is reported to be delaying an announcement on the end of the 15-year royal marriage because it does not want to disrupt a state visit of South African President Nelson Mandela, which begins on July 8.

An agreement will mark the end of a bitter divorce battle that began last December when Queen Elizabeth wrote to the battling couple and urged them to end the marriage.

Prince Charles agreed immediately but Princess Diana delayed her decision until February. On Tuesday a newspaper quoted her as saying: "I never wanted a divorce. No one seems to understand that."

Frustrated by delays in the acrimonious negotiations, Princess Diana went to the queen in May and threatened to call it off unless her mother-in-law intervened to speed things up.

Princess Diana married the prince in a glittering ceremony in 1981. The couple, who have two sons Princes William and Harry, announced their separation in 1992.

The divorce, which has been described as the biggest crisis in the British monarchy since Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson, will not affect Prince Charles's right to be king.

## 'Miss Rat' beauty contest in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — Philippines villagers have launched a "Miss Rat" beauty contest in an attempt to eradicate rodents eating their rice crops, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Philippine Inquirer said residents of the central town of Barotoc Nuevo decided the Miss Rat title would go to the group that presents the most rat-tails in their co-tenant's honour. The contest was to encourage people to kill more rats in rice fields.

## Sexy sausage not in good taste — judge

HONG KONG (AFP) — Unpalatably rude food photographs in a local magazine could land its publisher a year in jail, according to press reports Wednesday.

Pictures of an upright sausage, chocolate "naughty bits" and "an alluring slice of nectarine" published in the East Touch were deemed indecent by the high court Tuesday. The five-page magazine article entitled "a festival of pornography" was accompanied by an article that pleaded: "Moralists, please don't fume."

"Chinese people have always lacked a sense of humour where sex is concerned," the article detailed bizarre plastic and edible sex items in a light-hearted manner which defence lawyer Gerard McCoy said "should have been laughed out of court."

"It's confectionery. It's bizarre. It's making fun of sex," Mr. McCoy said. The high court was riveted as the defence lawyer and the judge conducted a brief debate on the properties of the average sausage. "The penis surrounded by rather unappetising bits of salad is plainly erect," ventured

Justice Keith, studying the perky bangers, complete with cartoon faces, perched upright on a plate. "It's just a sausage, Mr. McCoy," countered Mr. McCoy. "It's shaped like a penis," the judge insisted. "But all sausages are shaped like penises," Mr. McCoy replied.

The judge responded that "certain things" showed it to be a phallus. "Is your lordship looking at the happy smile on its face and the two eyes?" asked the lawyer. Justice Keith noted that readers were instructed to eat the offending sausage "without chopsticks, knives or forks."

The magazine had appealed against a ruling by the obscenity articles tribunal, which found the article had been unfit to print. The judge ruled against the appeal and the case will now go to the Magistrates Court.

## Burglary victim pardons thieves

LONDON (AFP) — A man robbed in his home at knife-point refused to testify in court against the alleged attackers because, as a good Muslim, he said he should pardon them. The Daily Telegraph reported Tuesday, Habbab Auda lost his video recorder, his stereo unit and his wallet in the burglary, but later told the police he had seen one of the robbers in the street.

But when the case came to court Mr. Auda refused to testify, while asserting that his statement to the police was true. "I had a dream and the same person who came to rob me with his friends saved me from drowning," he said. "I told the imam about the dream and he said if I could forgive that person I would find peace in myself."

Mr. Auda expressed the hope that the accused would restore what had been stolen, but added, "otherwise, I leave everything in Allah's hands."

Alan Greenwood, prosecuting, told the judge he would have to take instructions on how to proceed next, the Telegraph reported. "There is always room for a new experience and this is a new experience," the judge replied.

Advances in AIDS cure beyond reach of poor nations

WASHINGTON (R) — The last few months have brought significant advances in fighting the virus that causes AIDS. But the price tags have caused some questions about whether the new drug regimes will have access to the poor people who need them.

There are now drugs that can suppress the virus in a person's body, but they are expensive. A course of treatment can cost as much as \$10,000 a year.

There are also drugs that can prevent a person from getting AIDS, but they are also expensive. A course of treatment can cost as much as \$10,000 a year.

These drugs are a big step forward in the fight against AIDS, but they are also a big step back for the poor people who need them most.

The World Bank has also announced a \$10 million loan to help poor countries develop their health care systems.

The loan is part of a larger effort by the World Bank to help poor countries develop their health care systems.

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# Advances in AIDS cure beyond reach of poor nations

WASHINGTON (R) — The last few months have brought gratifying advances in fighting the virus that causes AIDS, but the hefty price tags raise disturbing questions about who will have access to the life-prolonging therapies.

The new drug regimes can cost \$12,000 to \$16,000 a year — and nobody yet knows how many years people will have to take the drugs or at what dosage.

For a middle-income person in a rich country, \$16,000 is a lot of money to spend on medicine each year.

For a poor person in an impoverished country, it is not even within the realm of imagination.

"There are new drugs, but they are expensive, and a majority (of people around the world) won't have access to them at this time," said Dr. Daniel Tarran, an AIDS expert at the Centre for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, one of thousands of experts grappling with these issues next week at the eleventh international conference on AIDS in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"I hope at some point there can be a little bit of innovation in how drugs are delivered" to poor nations, said Timothy Rothermel of the U.N. Development Programme, one of several agencies co-sponsoring UNAIDS, aimed at addressing the epidemic's spread and impact in the developing world.

Globally, the best way to fight AIDS will be a vaccine. But despite recent advances in the lab and in the clinic, a vaccine still appears to be a long way off.

Until then, prevention and public health education remain the only weapons. And in nations that can scarcely afford an Aspirin tablet, paying for ambitious prevention campaigns is a difficult task, according to numerous researchers and health policy experts interviewed recently.

Recognising AIDS as both a health and an economic development issue, the World Bank has also committed a total of nearly \$700 million to more than 60 projects around the world aimed at stopping the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The high costs of drugs is not the only barrier. The dosing schedule of the new medicines is elaborate and patients must be carefully monitored in ways that much of the world, particularly the poorer nations where health spending per person is only about \$10 a year, is unequipped.

In wealthier countries, social welfare and public insurance programmes can provide at least a partial safety net. However, the high cost and the sheer number of different drugs involved, place some strains on social systems.

For instance, the Medicaid programme in the United States covers about half the people with AIDS, and nine out of 10 children with AIDS.

But Medicaid costs were spiralling even before the new AIDS drugs came on the scene, and both state and federal lawmakers have been looking hard for ways to tamp down costs. There are some bright spots on prevention, according to Dr. Tarran. At the Vancouver conference, researchers are expected to share some positive outcomes of some innovative prevention programmes in developing nations and examine the best ways to use drugs to avoid passing HIV from infected women to their newborn children.



Thousands of Christian protesters scuffle with Philippine police near Andrews Air Base where President Fidel Ramos was about to arrive Tuesday in southern Zamboanga City in Mindanao. The protesters were demonstrating against the government's peace agreement with Muslim rebels (Reuters photo)

## Rotten tomatoes, insults greet Ramos on southern Philippine peace tour

GENERAL SANTOS, The Philippines (AFP) — Hostile crowds greeted President Fidel Ramos with a hail of rotten tomatoes and verbal abuse here Wednesday in the latest protest against his proposed peace accord with a Muslim rebel group.

Witnesses said several tomatoes splattered against Mr. Ramos' four-wheel-drive van as it emerged from a new international airport that he had just inaugurated.

The demonstrators, estimated by police at 8,000, booed the president and shouted, "don't sell us, Mr. Ramos."

They pelted the presidential motorcade with tomatoes, placards and plastic bags of water as it sped by on the highway. One presidential guard was hit by tomatoes, witnesses said.

Police made no arrests after Mr. Ramos ordered law enforcers to observe maximum tolerance in dealing with the protesters.

The president smiled and waved to the crowd on the roadside from the open window of his slow-moving van as it left the airport, the witnesses said.

But bodyguards persuaded him just in time to duck his head inside and close his window after sensing the hostility of the crowd.

Mr. Ramos had just inaugurated the U.S.-funded airport in the city, the latest stop on a two-day "journey of peace" in the southern island of Mindanao to drum up support for the proposed accord with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He was confronted by placards saying "no to Misuari," "no to the MNLF," and "leave us alone, we are peaceful here."

Nur Misuari is chairman of the MNLF, which negotiated the deal last month in peace talks brokered by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Both sides hope to reach a final agreement to end a 24-year Muslim rebellion in the country's south during a last round of peace talks in Jakarta. The pact is to be

signed in Manila within the next three months, officials have said.

Mr. Ramos, unshaken by the protests, told a meeting on the final leg of his visit in Sarangani province that peace was necessary for the economic development of Mindanao.

"I know that none of you, none of us would want to return back to the old days of confrontation, violence and even bloody struggle," he said.

It was the second time in as many days that Mr. Ramos was met with jeers in his effort to marshal Mindanao's Christian majority behind the deal.

In Zamboanga City Tuesday, more than 10,000 angry demonstrators besieged the airport as Ramos arrived at the start of his tour.

There were no protests later Tuesday during Mr. Ramos' visit to Cotabato, where he stayed overnight.

But Christian residents and local officials there presented him with a manifesto urging the "deferment, if not cancellation" of the signing of a peace pact unless the "clear consent of the majority ... is obtained through real and adequate consultations."

The proposed accord calls for the creation of a Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), dominated by the MNLF to oversee economic projects in 14 Muslim-populated but mainly Christian provinces and nine cities in Mindanao and nearby areas.

The council is intended to pave the way for the creation after three years of an autonomous Muslim region in the area through a plebiscite.

The Christian majority has accused the government of selling out to the MNLF, which had waged a bloody separatist uprising in the early 1970s in which 50,000 people were killed before negotiating for autonomy.

## Yeltsin, voting near Moscow, looks stiff and awkward

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin cast his vote well away from the world's media Wednesday and the Kremlin released brief film footage of the Russian leader, who looked stiff and awkward.

Mr. Yeltsin's health has been the subject of mounting speculation since he started cancelling engagements a week ago.

He moved his left arm rather awkwardly in the well-edited one-minute television spot, displaying a hand injured when he was a child, and he had a slightly crooked smile.

The president usually makes every effort not to show the hand, injured when he played with a live grenade as a child.

But the president spoke clearly, appealing to Russians to show up and vote in the second round of the election, which pits him against Communist Genady Zyuganov.

"All of you, absolutely all of you, come (to vote) do not forget your duty," he said, speaking with some hesitation and occasionally stumbling over his words.

Earlier Kremlin officials had brought four busloads of pre-accredited correspondents and television crews to the Moscow polling station where Mr. Yeltsin normally votes.

After a two-hour wait, they were told he had already voted at Barvikha, a village which includes both a government sanatorium and a complex of state residences. It was not clear exactly where the official footage was filmed.

Mr. Yeltsin explained his decision to vote outside Moscow by saying that he had exceeded his "plan" targets for talking to journalists by 120 per cent this year.

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, who suffered two heart attacks last year, more or less disappeared from public view a



Russian President Boris Yeltsin casts his ballot at a polling station in the village of Barvikha, outside Moscow Wednesday. Mr. Yeltsin cast his vote well away from the world's media and the Kremlin released brief film footage of the Russian leader, who looked stiff and awkward. Yeltsin's health has been the subject of mounting speculation since he started cancelling engagements a week ago (Reuters photo)

week ago, prompting speculation that his health had worsened. Aides say he has been suffering from a cold and had problems with his voice.

Meanwhile Russian voters were glued to their seats by a blockbuster, triple dose of a popular Brazilian soap opera about good and evil early Wednesday.

For some, the struggle

between President Yeltsin and Mr. Zyuganov, facing a second round runoff for control of the Kremlin, paled in comparison.

Wednesday has been declared a public holiday for the vote, and aides to Mr. Yeltsin see a high turnout as essential to his reelection.

"Tabloid" newspapers have been promising to reveal the "Secret of the Woman of the

Tropics" for weeks, and Russian state television (ORT) paid in kind with more than two hours of new twists in the series about identical twin sisters, one good, one evil.

Some polling stations in Moscow and St. Petersburg were almost empty, and election officials blamed the slump on "Tropikanka", which began at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) as polling stations opened.

Small queues formed early on outside polling stations in St. Petersburg as soap opera fans waited to vote then rush home to see the outcome of months of feuding between the twins. But then the trickle of voters slowed to a halt.

"The turnout is clearly lower than in the first round though eight voters were waiting for us to open. I do hope that people will come after watching Tropikanka," said Dmitry Solov'yov, chairman of one polling station in St. Petersburg's second city.

Mr. Yeltsin's aides have warned that a turnout of less than 60 per cent could hurt his chances, especially if his supporters take advantage of the extra holiday to spend the day at their vegetable plots and country dachas instead of voting.

But the announcer on ORT, which has openly favoured Mr. Yeltsin in the pre-election period, urged voters to stay in town instead to watch Tropikanka — and, presumably, to vote in the election.

"The dacha can wait until Saturday because on the first channel the Tropikanka is revealing her secrets," the voice said in a break between two of the episodes.

But despite the appeal, many cars were seen leaving St. Petersburg and day-trippers headed for buses and trains with facksacks on their backs.

## Cuba complains to ICAO on unannounced U.S. flights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cuba complained to the Montreal-based U.N. aviation group for having to divert commercial airliners flying over its airspace six times this year because of unannounced American planes.

In a letter to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) sent Tuesday, Cuba said that on June 25 its air controllers asked an American Airlines and a Salvadoran aircraft to change course so they would not collide with an unidentified American plane.

The unidentified plane, according to Miami air controllers, belonged to the U.S. government, said the letter.

Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's parliamentary speaker, who wrote the letter, told reporters the U.S. actions over Cuban airspace were a safety hazard.

"They are doing that — not in the North Pole — but in an area which has one of the largest concentrations of U.S. civilian commercial aircraft," he said.

"Can you imagine what would happen if two civilian airliners collided over Cuban airspace?" The ICAO recently concluded that two small planes operated by the Miami-based Cuban exile group, Brothers to the Rescue, were in international air space when

Cuban MiGs shot them down without using standard interception procedures.

Cuba argued that the plane were over its airspace and part of a series of provocations by exile groups.

As a result of the report, the United States is seeking U.N. Security Council action against Cuba. Diplomats said a critical statement might be adopted later this month, but any efforts towards sanctions would be opposed.

Mr. Alarcon gave a copy of the letter to the current Security Council president, Alain Delamont of France, shortly after the president had spoken to U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, who is lobbying Council members to follow up the ICAO report. Mr. Pena has not commented on the letter.

Mr. Alarcon said about 340 aircraft crossed near or over Cuban air space daily, most of them commercial airliners.

"We help those planes who fly over Cuba legally," he said. "The main source or the only source of disruption or trouble they face in this area are not caused by us, but the U.S. government planes or U.S.-tolerated planes."

"You have Mr. Basulto playing games in that area and the Pentagon or the CIA or whoever flying around," he said. Mr. Alarcon was refer-

ring to Jose Basulto, whose aircraft survived the Feb. 24 attack by a Cuban MiG-29 and had his pilot's licence revoked for violating Cuban airspace.

In the letter to the ICAO, Mr. Alarcon said that the June 25 incident was not an isolated one, but the sixth one this year, four of which have involved American Airlines flights.

"We hope that ICAO will take appropriate measures to prevent new violations of international and Cuban standards and regulations set out for the orderly and safe development of civil aviation," the letter said.

Specifically, the letter said that at 10:47 a.m. (1447 GMT) on June 25, Havana air controllers asked their counterparts in Miami if they had information on an unidentified aircraft.

About 2 1/2 hours later, Miami said the plane was an "aircraft of the government of the United States operating on request," according to the Cuban letter.

Before the message was received, the Havana controllers ordered two commercial airliners to change course. They were identified as American Airlines Flight 2188 from Guatemala to Miami and Transporte Aereo Internacional Sava-doreno Flight 310 from San Salvador to Miami.



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# Society on the Move

## When mixing business and pleasure works

Al Majd Arabic weekly printed a short "news" item last week teasing Deputy Taher Masri about the validity of describing a recent trip he took to Beirut as a "private" visit. The item states, and correctly so according to Mr. Masri, that during the visit, the former Prime Minister and Speaker of the House was invited to lunch by President Elias Hrawi, had dinner with Speaker of the House of Parliament Nohbi Berri, and was received by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez. Taking into consideration the political positions of all involved, the paper quipped that "Mr. Masri still insists the visit was private and not political." Well it was too, according to Mr. Masri, who took along his family, including his mother, to Beirut for a family occasion. He said he meant to see Mr. Berri as he is a friend and was once his counterpart when Mr. Masri held the speakership of the Lower House in 1994. The other invitations were extended after Mr. Masri's arrival and were also social. Besides, when can anyone ever remember bringing Arab politicians together for a social encounter and talk of politics was not the centerpiece?

**IN ANOTHER LEAGUE:** Political talk will be rife when Jordan says farewell to a long-time friend, Egyptian Ambassador Wajih Hamdi, who will be returning to bustling Cairo to take on his new assignment as Egypt's permanent representative to the Arab League. Mr. Hamdi is no stranger to Jordan. In 1986 he served here as counsellor then as a minister in 1987. After that he returned to Cairo to become a member of the Egyptian delegation to the Madrid Middle East Peace Conference in late 1991. In 1992 he came back to Amman as ambassador. His departure for Cairo is scheduled for the end of August. Mr. Hamdi's successor will be first-time Ambassador Hani Riyad, who is coming directly from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. On July 23 Mr. Hamdi will host a reception at his residence in Abdoun to commemorate the anniversary of the revolution in Egypt and the establishment of the republic in 1952. Those invited will have an opportunity to wish Mr. Hamdi well, as we do here.

**A FIRST ORDER:** Friends and associates will also extend good wishes to Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Anton Pascale as he leaves Jordan next week to return to his Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a possible directorship position. The 52-year-old Mr. Pascale had spent 10 years as a counsellor at his country's Ministry of Foreign Trade. Between 1979 and 1986 he was posted as first secretary in the trade sections of Romania's embassies in Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur. He returned to Bucharest to become deputy director in the Ministry of Foreign Trade then director in the Ministry of Trade and Tourism. Mr. Pascale was appointed an ambassador in early 1992 and arrived to take up his first such post in Amman in June of that year. He was recently presented with the Istiklal Medal of the First Order by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Pascale is the first Romanian envoy since the formal establishment of diplomatic ties between Amman and Bucharest in 1965 to be decorated with a medal from the King. We do not know why this happened as all outgoing ambassadors are usually presented with the medal, but what Mr. Pascale can tell you is that his tenure here has been most enjoyable and full of successful visits by senior Romanian officials including last year's visit by Prime Minister Nicolae Vacarescu and the signing of several bilateral agreements on trade, health, cultural and scientific exchanges. An unusual agreement in the making is one between Jordan Television and Romanian television for the exchange of English language programmes. Mr. Pascale returns to Bucharest to join his wife Elena and their only child, Antonela, who just completed her studies in economics at Bucharest University. The person tipped to succeed

Mr. Pascale is Ioan Agafichioate, a career diplomat whose appointment could be announced soon. If all goes according to plan, Mr. Agafichioate could be here in August.

**LEAVE IT TO THE PROS:** When it comes to commerce, the Israeli foreign service has a practice of appointing commercial attachés hand-picked from the government's Ministry of Industry and Trade. "They are more professional," says one Israeli envoy in Amman, and the government prefers to place this calibre of personnel in "embassies with important commercial potential." The embassy in Amman, we are told, ranks among that tier. Thus today, Shaul Sasson, in his early 30s and newly married, is expected to arrive from Israel to look for a place to call home and then in about two weeks officially take up his first foreign post. Technically, Mr. Sasson is the embassy's first such attaché. From the start up of embassy operations until last December, Sami Ofri conducted the business of the commercial office on a part-time basis. He then retired and is now on pension. From that time until Mr. Sasson's appointment, the office activities have been handled by a Jordanian staff member, Amjad Fakhouri. With Mr. Sasson's arrival, Mr. Fakhouri will continue to work in the busy commercial section.

**FROM CAPITOL HILL:** Arrived Wednesday for a two day fact-finding mission is Punit Talwar, foreign policy advisor to U.S. Democratic Senator Joseph Biden of the state of Delaware. What, you might ask, is the importance of such a visit. The power of the mighty U.S. Senate and its committees is nothing to sneeze at. And as Mr. Biden is expected to become the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee next year, he can be rather influential. His advisor, Mr. Talwar, is in town to meet with key political figures including Minister of Information Marwan Muasher, who as a former director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington has a keen sense of how the U.S. legislature operates, particularly when it comes to foreign affairs.

**WE HEAR YA:** Also in Jordan for only two days, Monday and Tuesday, was a group of American Jewish leaders who are members of Project Nishma, an organisation of Jewish supporters of an Arab-Israeli settlement who believe that the peace process should be based on the principle of "land for peace" and opposition to West Bank settlement expansion. The delegation, which began its trip in Israel and visited the West Bank, was led by Ted Mann, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations. Their stated mission here was to focus on the connections between security and peace and to assess the new political environment in the aftermath of the Israeli election. Their meetings in Amman were set up primarily by Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Ezye Taravneh. The group hoped to meet with His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan, but both were out of town at the time. The delegation did, however, meet with Minister of Information Marwan Muasher. According to Project Nishma Executive Director Thomas Smerling, who organised and participated in the trip, the delegation was particularly interested in hearing analysis of internal Jordanian politics and how different sectors of Jordanian society are reacting to the King's approach to the peace process and to Israel, and the role of public opinion in Jordan. On Monday evening the group met with Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir at his home in Amman. Prof. Shamir briefed the Project Nishma team on relations between Jordan and Israel. The delegation left Jordan for Syria on Tuesday. The group's motto is "Let us listen." Nishma, in Hebrew, means to hear.

**COMING BACK FOR MORE:** You can bet folks in Germany listen to Marcel Pott. The respected senior editor and television broadcaster with ARD Studio Bonn, German television, was back in Amman last week on one of his biannual visits. Mr. Pott was accompanied by Simone Westermann, a representative of Deutsche Welte Hungerhilfe, a Bonn-based NGO which provides aid to third world countries. On this nearly two-week trip he collected material for an article he is writing on the "fallout" after the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister. The article is to be published in Die Zeit, a German major circulation daily. He had hoped to get an opportunity to see Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti but that was just not in the cards this time around. He did meet, however, aides to the prime minister who no doubt filled him on useful information for his article. Mr. Pott spent several years in Amman in the late 80s and early 90s after he moved the ARD offices here from Beirut. Altogether he spent about 16 years working in the Arab World.

**CLEVER CONCERN:** Taghreed Najjara is the mother of three girls and has for most of her adult life been a teacher, at home and at schools and colleges. An American University of Beirut graduate of English language with a diploma in teaching, Ms. Najjar began publishing early in her career. She has written several books for children including the popular Silsilat Ahsan Sadeek (Best Friend Series), and five short stories designed for post illiterate adults which were commissioned by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and developed by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1995. Her latest book is a venture in English, with a version in Arabic, which, via different activities, introduces Jordan to young tourists. Colourfully illustrated by Lamia Al Saheb, the book tells the story of Rima and her younger brother Saeed who travel to Jordan where their uncle Fawzi and his family take them on a whirlwind tour to all the historic and natural sites. Filled with puzzles, visual games and how-to exercises connected to the story, the book offers little folks a way of getting to know Jordan on their own. Let's face it, most tourist books, says Ms. Najjar, are aimed at adults. Now with her own publishing house registered under the name Al Salwa Publishers, the writer plans on many more entertaining and educational books aimed at various reading levels.

**FOCUSSED:** Returning to his place of birth and primary education for the summer, professional photographer/architect Tarek Shaer, is willing to give it a go again and determine whether there is a local interest and appreciation of his photographic talent. Mr. Shaer graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) with a Bachelor of Architecture, and an Associates degree in professional photography from the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), both in 1996. He says that he found himself taking photography courses and thought that with the credits piling up he might as well obtain the degree. Mr. Shaer opened his own studio in Los Angeles this past January and



'Above the Horizon,' a photo of Wadi Rum by Tarek Shaer

says he will be working between the U.S. and Jordan. He works in colour and black and white and appears to be fond of scenic and human interest shots. Mr. Shaer, 23, has been working in digital photography and animation and has won several awards in the span of just one year including awards from two respected U.S. published magazines "Photographic" and "Popular Photography." He held five exhibitions, again in only one year, including a display of selective architecture in California at the UCLA Extension Gallery in Santa Monica and a display of photographs of Petra and Wadi Rum at the Gypsy Café (that's the way they spell it) in the upscale Westwood district of Los Angeles. And speaking of upscale, some of his corporate clients include Riconne glasses and Budwiser models. Mr. Shaer, the son of Amman architect Zuhair and Rima Shaer, is planning to hold a one-man exhibition in Amman in December, most likely at the Royal Cultural Centre.

**JULY MEANS JERASH:** You may want to get out your own camera and autograph books to be on the look-out for this year's star-studded billing for the Jerash Festival which opens on July 17. On the programme are Lebanon's Majda Roumi and Najwa Kham, Egypt's Mustafa Qamar, Syria's Sabah Fakhry, the Aleppian Kudud-Sabri Mudallal Group, the Andalusian Muwashshat of Morocco, the Iraqi Makam-Husseini Adhami of Iraq, the Lebanese Zajal Zaghoul Damour Group, Bashar Zarkan of Syria and Jordan's very own Sakher Hattar to name a few. There are children's plays and musicals, performances by a Palestinian opera company, stagings of Swan Lake and a Christmas play, a treat of The Nutcracker by the Egyptian Opera House Ballet, "A Night from the Arab Gulf" from the UAE, The Caver n Beatles from the U.K. and even an Egyptian circus. This year collector Widad Kassar contributes from her famous and precious collection of Jordanian and Palestinian traditional attire to stage a folklore fashion show. In addition, many works by renowned Arab artists will be on display in a fine arts exhibition. An Arabian handicrafts exhibition brings together the talents of UAE, Palestinian, Tunisian and Jordanian craftspeople. Venues are at Jerash's South Theatre, Artemis Steps, Sound and Light Theatre, Gerassia and the Forum, as well as some performances in Amman and other venues such as at Um Qais. Check local listings as information becomes available. Hoping that this traditional fest meets not the same fate of the Fuheis fandango.

Jennifer Hamarneth

## Britons become monsters on the road

By Elizabeth Fullerton

**REUTERS**  
LONDON — Stoic Britain, whose people are renowned for keeping a stiff upper lip under pressure, is in the grip of road rage.

Road rage, a term coined in the United States, has increased in Britain in step with car ownership and the stress of modern life. But last month's fatal stabbing of a young man by another driver shocked many Britons.

Shaking his head in bemusement when another man cut in at traffic lights cost Stephen Cameron his life, his fiancée said.

"I had to brake quite sharply. Steve was just shaking his head as if to say 'you idiot.' But he was joking more than anything," she added.

Hours after he was killed a 73-year-old war motorist was beaten up by two men. He waved from his car to thank them for letting him into traffic but they saw it as a rude gesture.

A man was jailed for four years after deliberately driving over and killing the victim of an earlier hit-and-run accident.

Chauffeur Tony Heart was convicted of assault after he leapt from his limousine, banged a motorcyclist's head on the pavement in a frenzy and throttled him until he was unconscious.

It seems the simple act of getting into a car can spark a Jekyll and Hyde-style transformation in some motorists. Cocooned in their cosy cars, drivers can undergo a complete personality change, psychologists say.

"Military training to kill involves the same dehumanising process as driving. These are situations where people lose grasp of their core personality," says Conrad King, psychologist and consultant to the Royal Automobile Club (RAC).

Research suggests cases of road rage

are on the increase as society becomes more competitive and burdened by stress.

"It's the price we pay for living in a technological society," said RAC spokesman Edmund King.

Nine out of 10 motorists claim to have been victims of road rage, according to a survey by the Automobile Association.

Road rage encompasses a range of aggressive behaviour, from sound the horn, headlight flashing, tail-dogging and abusive gestures to actual physical attack.

Last year, according to the 1996 Lex report on motoring, there were 1.8 million cases of people being forced off the road and 500,000 incidents of cars being deliberately rammed.

"One problem is that everyone thinks they are the best driver on the roads," said the RAC.

One reason for this sudden loss of the traditional British sang froid is severe road congestion.

With 21 million cars in use, roads are becoming choked with traffic. By 2020, the number of cars is expected to soar to 31 million.

The capital London, where traffic regularly grinds to a halt during rush hour, is particularly prone to road rage outbreaks.

Cab driver Colin Jones, 42, was convicted of assault after attacking the driver of a London sight-seeing bus outside Buckingham Palace.

A motorcycle courier from London was jailed for three years after spraying ammonia into the eyes of a van driver and threatening to stab him to death.

Psychologist Conrad King found in a personality study that people experienced much stronger feelings of aggression, extroversion and paranoia when driving than in an office.

"Roadrage can be a projection of a range of feelings, from a need to win, a desire for power or a fear of inadequacy," said Mr. King. Drivers can avoid losing control through effective stress management and journey planning, psychologists say.

The Automobile Association has issued a 10-point courtesy code to help motorists cope with their frustration.

It tells people to keep calm and show restraint. "Do not drive in a spirit of competition or retaliation."

The RAC says people convicted of road attacks should undergo counselling before being allowed back behind the wheel.

Both organisations recommend having more police on the roads as the increasing substitution of camera technology is simply not an effective deterrent.

They say the government should improve public transport, particularly in congested cities, and set up a campaign to encourage driver awareness.

The government is widely expected to set out guidelines on attitudes to other drivers in a new edition of the Motorists' Highway Code, which Britons preparing to take their driving test must learn by rote, including a section on "anti-confrontation".

Only five years ago, British police thought the section was unnecessary because roadrage was a phenomenon limited to America. Among its suggestions, it is expected to advise drivers to acknowledge when they have made a mistake which might annoy another motorist and not to get out of their car if threatened.

"If you are mentally prepared, you can avoid being the victim of other people's anger," says Andy Neale of a driver training group.

"Just don't get involved, that's our message."

## Spreading road violence upsets Malaysia

By Christina Pantin  
Reuters

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Violence on the road, once viewed as a problem of on-the-edge motorists in cities like Los Angeles, has erupted in Malaysia and prompted a frenzy of public outrage and self-examination in this normally placid country.

With about a dozen highly-publicised cases of road bullying since the beginning of the year, denizens of this normally mild-mannered, multi-racial land of 19 million citizens are asking officials to stiffen laws to curb road rage.

In one of the latest incidents, an argument broke out when neither a car nor a van would give way on a narrow road.

A family of four in the car was attacked by the van driver with a knife and sledgehammer. It took 200 stitches to sew up the car driver's face.

Another case which provoked outrage occurred in April, when an

Italian businessman and his Malaysian wife were chased by a mob of 30 motorcyclists in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

The motorcyclists dented the car with helmets and rocks after the driver honked and flashed his lights at them after a near-miss.

His wife, who was three months pregnant, suffered a miscarriage a week after the incident.

Psychologists have had little trouble coming up with a list of explanations for the road rage epidemic.

Bad traffic, stress at home and on the job, and inability to deal with anger have all been suggested.

"Road thugs are normally people with low frustration tolerance and cannot bear waiting in traffic jams," a psychiatrist told The Star newspaper in a recent interview.

Since the launch of the national proton car some 10 years ago made vehicles more affordable, Malaysia's roads have

become increasingly clogged, a problem magnified by the heavy infrastructure building in its capital city.

Some citizens are calling for road bullies' licences to be rescinded. "Their licences should be revoked permanently," Penang Secretary Michelle Lou told a local newspaper poll.

The suggestion has been echoed by police in the capital.

Others believe self-defence is a better deterrent. Company executive Stanley Teoh proposed in The Star newspaper's "road beasts poll" that the Malaysian government allow motorists to keep weapons in their cars for protection.

Malaysia has very strict laws against ownership of weapons, including guns and knives.

Others advocated avoiding doing anything that would spark violence, no matter how innocuous.

"We have to assume that seemingly harmless

errors can incite extreme responses," said reader C.T. Sim in a letter published in the New Straits Times newspaper.

Under that scenario, Mr. Sim said, "it would not be wise for a motorist to toot the horn at a driver who has cut sharply into his path."

Taking that tack, several local newspapers published a list of suggestions on how to avoid road assaults. They included tips such as, "avoid confrontation. Be apologetic, eat humble pie even if you are in the right."

The government for now has said that there is no need to change laws to curb road bullying, while conceding the need to study the problem.

"Revoking a driver's licence will be too drastic," Transport Minister Ling Liong Sik has said. "People can change given the right counselling."







## RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

### Collective exhibition of 50 Arab artists Keeping admiration alive

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

"ART IS like a charming woman who once had her age of innocence in the nursery when she was beautiful without knowing it, being wholly intent on what she was making or telling or imagining. Then she had a season of passion and vanity; when having discovered how beautiful she was, she decked herself out in all possible pomp and finery, invented fashion after fashion to keep admiration alive, and finally began to put on rouge and false hair and too much scent, in the hope of still being a belle at seventy", remarked Spanish philosopher, poet and novelist George Santayana (1863-1952).

Still — or rather, especially — a belle at the age of seventy, the main gallery at Darat Al Funun (starting life as a residence in the 1920s and now an art-form in its own right) opens its doors once again to a plethora of art from all over the Arab World. The "Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists" Bedecked with nothing but blue jasmine, honey-suckle and wild reeds, the gallery keeps "admiration alive" in the sublime splendour of its sloping grounds and rustic buildings. No "fashions" are invented here: only new ideas.

Predictably, therefore, when the foremost 50 Arab artists from 10 Arab countries exhibit their work in a single exhibition, under one roof, for a whole month, the result is simply spectacular. Accordingly, the "Small House of Arts" (Arabic for Darat Al Funun) is now foster home to the works of some of the most established names in modern contemporary Arab art, such as Shaker Hassan Al Said, Mona Saudi, Nasser Soumi, Amin Al Basha and Farid Bilkahia.

Lending the exhibition special significance is the diversity of not only the artists themselves, but also the artistic styles involved, the materials, and the method of hanging (the achronage), according each of the works its optimal surroundings with respect to the other works, the aesthetics of the exhibition hall as well as the light.

These overlapping and mutually-complementary elements make the exhibit particularly valuable to those interested in researching the development and evolution of style, technique and materials used in the field of contemporary Arab art. The experience is therefore as much an illuminating educational one as it is an aesthetic and spiritual one. The works feature the latest artistic innovations in the various schools: Abstract, expressionism, impressionism, graphics, installations, etc.

The exhibition abounds with works of rising artists — with talent galore — such as Ghadah Dahdaleh, Nadim Muhsin, Khalil Rabah, and Mahmoud Obeidi. The artists, old and new, collectively represent each of Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Sudan, Morocco, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Some of these artists reside in cities as far away and diverse as Tokyo and San Francisco.

Participating artists from Jordan are Samia Taktak Zaru, Nabila Hilmi, Khalid Khreis, Mona Saudi, Ghada Dahdaleh, Ammar Khammash, Ahmad Nawash, Nawal Abdullah, Adnan Al Sharif, Abdul Raouf Shamoun, Alia Amoura, Aziz Amoura, Fouad Mimmi, Rula Shukairy, Dodi Tabaa, Samer Tabaa, Nabil Shehadeh, Ufemia Rizk and Jamal Asbour.

The team representing Palestine consists of Samira Badran, Vladimir Tamari, Kamal Boullata, Samia Halaby, Jumana Al Hussein, Nasser Soumi, Suleiman Mansour,

Tayseer Barakat, Nabil Anani, Laila Shawa and Khalil Rabah.

Iraq's historic marriage to art, literature and poetry is strongly evident in this exhibit, with the participation of the likes of philosopher-artist Shaker Hassan Al Said, Rafa Nasiri, Saadi Al Kaabi, Himat Mohammad Ali, Nadim Muhsin, Ismail Fattah, Salem Dabbagh, Karim Rasan Mansour, Mahmoud Obeidi, and Ali Taleb.

Finally, a small but important number of artists from other Arab countries are represented through their works: Farid Bilkahia and Muhammad Kacimi from Morocco, Faisal Samra from Saudi Arabia, Rashid Diab and Muhammad Omar Khalil from Sudan, Rafik Al Kamel from Tunisia, as well as Amin Al Basha, Ghadah Jamal and Afaf Zureiq from Lebanon.

If the viewer is expecting nothing more than the usual "oil-on-canvas" or "acrylic-on-paper", pleasant surprises abound with the proliferation of other mediums and techniques: installations, sculptures, prints, etc. Samer Tabaa's work of wood-and-tar will draw an inquisitive glare from the dullest eye, perhaps even a poke, (providing one can escape Director Ali Maher's vigilant prowling, of course).

Nabil Anani's innovative working and colouring of virgin leather would not doubt put to shame the proudest Cherokee Indian teepee-maker, Suleiman Mansour, on the other hand, has no peer when it comes to environmentally-friendly art. His exhibited work, an ornate structure in itself, looks like a huge talisman or totem-symbol that is both recyclable and biodegradable. Predictably, a dehydrated (but potentially re-hydratable) straw-and-mud base makes up the primary structure, with copious lengths of spiralling rope making up the mainsail rigging. The whole item is then decked with granular articles that bear striking resemblance to millet, corn, raisins and coniflakes.

Emerging from this wonderfully-organic emporium, the viewer is greeted with the solemnness of Mona Saudi's bi-textural black granite structure. Its austerity becomes its very art-form. It is both sensual and forbidding. It beacons to be experienced first hand.

Aziz Amoura's virtually translucent Arabic calligraphy work in yellow, gold, grass-green and orange is probably the most mystical of the whole range, save perhaps the Sufi-inspired works of Dr. Khalid Khreis and Rafik Al Kamel. Amoura's faint arches add credence to the conjecture that the calligraphy might be of the spiritual sort. However, it is worthwhile mentioning the little-known fact, that "there is no division between sacred and secular art in Islam, and these same designs and materials could be used to embellish palaces, tombs and fortresses as well as mosques." (Art in Islam, World of Islam Festival Trust).

According to the above essay, Art in Islam, the historical background of the art of calligraphy goes back to earlier

Islam, when it [calligraphy] "developed through every media, great and small, to remind the reader of his obligations and responsibilities as a Muslim. It is revealed in the Holy Qur'an that man is born forgetful of God, and it is therefore necessary and desirable that he should be constantly reminded of Him."

For the scribe or illuminator, the creation of a Qur'anic manuscript or the inspiration of a quotation from holy scripture inscribed upon glass or pottery; engraved upon metal or inlaid with gold or silver; carved into ivory, wood or stone, represents an act of piety and devotion. It communicates itself to any subsequent beholder, be it of miniature refinement or massive ornamentation upon a wall or dome. Even when the calligraphy becomes so elaborate and convoluted as to make it hard to decipher, it remains a proclamation of the Word of God.

Adjacent to an ink-on-paper sketch by Ismail Fattah of a distraught face that looks like that of a hurriedly and unnecessarily-awakened Egyptian mummy, is another work by the artist, cast in bronze. Standing approximately 40cm high, it depicts a disoriented nude man emerging out of a coffin-like box, looking as if he is wondering whether he had made the correct choice.

Rula Shukairy's usage of delicate greys, greens, yellows and beiges conspire to conjure the likeness of an imposing rock-facade that manages to evoke Petra more convincingly than traditional works using the traditional Petra colours of rose-red, orange and variants thereof.

A feast of indigo, royal blue and black predominates in Dodi Tabaa's work. Dodi seems happiest whenever pasting, gluing, or affixing some contrasting material atop another. Here, she manacles a wrinkled sheet of tenuous cloth onto a firm board, with all manner of mystical symbols drawn boldly on the more even surfaces.

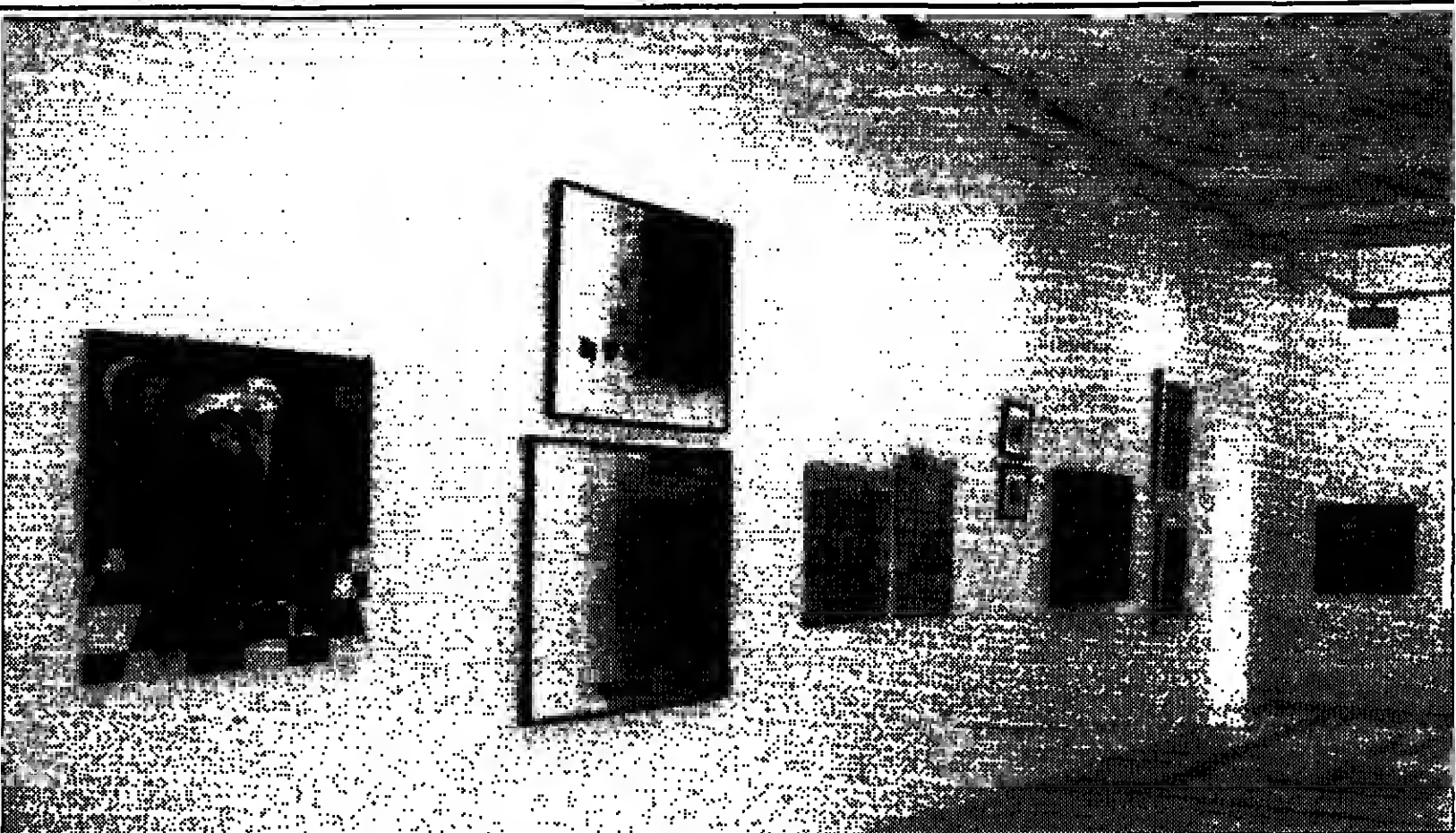
Perhaps the most outspoken work on exhibit is an acrylic-on-canvas painting by Palestinian artist Laila Shawa, depicting three dancing twirling peasant girls clad in long

dress, with heavily-decorated feet and hands, incorporating good-luck charms and talismans such as those believed to ward off the evil eye. The background is of the most brilliant orange — almost phosphorescent — contrasting with a black and white chequered floor. Surrealism immediately springs to mind here.

The viewer is encouraged to pay several visits to this exhibition, since one would probably not have a chance to become saturated with an individual work of art upon first encounter. The intensity of the works as a whole, and their number, are such that it may not be possible to do more than glance at each of the works on display. But if one or more of the works touch the viewer in a way that is especially meaningful to him/her, then it could be most rewarding to savour the joys of discovering beautiful forms in the details, however subtle: "A picture is a poem without words", commented Horace. Jean Paul Richter added: "Art is indeed not the bread but the wine of life."

The Dara's director, artist Ali Maher, explains that "by integrating young talented artists with more established ones, we help introduce them to, and launch them out into society in a strong way. We help our participating artists in other ways too: Because the gallery is a non-profit organization and does not exact any commission fees from artists, the latter are consequently able to offer their works for purchase to members of the public at lower prices, thus making more and more significant art works available and accessible to a wider spectrum of people."

On a lighter note, Mr. Maher adds that "the intellectual atmosphere of the Dara's outdoor cafe-by-the-fountain is also a place where exhibition-weary bodies can relax and engage in hearty chats over a cup of coffee, perhaps even sketch an unsuspecting visitor in some far corner. One will almost always bump into old friends there, and may very likely make new ones. Art has a tendency of bringing people and ideas together in most unanticipated yet creative ways, and inspiring settings are always conducive to that." The month-long exhibition ends on July 31.



The exhibition of contemporary Arab artists — Darat Al Funun

### Hollywood questioning Jim Carrey's change of style

By Steve James  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — With four big comedy hits under his belt, Hollywood's \$20-million man Jim Carrey was not the zany comedy star wanted to be taken seriously and audiences have given the thumbs-down to his latest film.

The negative fan reaction and cool critical reception for The Cable Guy has studios and Hollywood insiders wondering if Carrey's bubble has burst.

They question whether the talented Canadian stand-up comedian can successfully re-invent himself as a serious actor as Robin Williams and Steve Martin have done, or whether his bankability has been damaged by an apparent box-office flop.

Although Columbia Pictures is confident it will break even with overseas and video sales, The Cable Guy, a dark tale with a message about the dangerous effects of television on children, earned only \$10.3 million in its second weekend. That box-office take was a staggering 48 per cent drop from its opening total. Its 10-day gross is \$49.5 million.

That's a far cry from Carrey's remarkable run of hits — Ace Ventura, Pet Detective, The Mask, Dumb and Dumber and Ace Ventura, When Nature Calls — which alone grossed \$37.8 million in its first weekend. In addition, Carrey played The Riddler in last year's blockbuster, Batman Forever.

There are reports that once they saw Cable Guy grosses, Universal executives sought changes in Liar, Liar — due out in December — in which Carrey plays a lawyer whose life unravels when he makes a pact not to tell a lie for an entire day.

The Los Angeles Times cited Universal sources as saying changes were ordered to make the movie into a typical Carrey slapstick vehicle. Carrey is being paid \$20 million for the film, the same as The Cable Guy, which cost \$60 million.

Jill Krutick, a movie industry analyst for Wall St. investment bank Smith Barney, said one flop may make studios nervous but not ready yet to pull the plug on a star.

"Many actors seek to transcend their genres and sometimes they find it is difficult to break out of the stereotyping," she said, citing Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, both of whom have made light comedies only to return to their stock-in-trade action pictures.

"If his latest film had mixed success, it may make studios a little nervous (about Carrey). But it's obvious a big box-office star has an amount of flexibility and leverage."

"The studios' patience could wear thin," said Ms. Krutick.

Jeffrey Logsdon, an entertainment analyst with Seidler and Co., said: "I don't think Hollywood particularly cares... that the cable guy didn't perform to some specific level."

"A lot has to do with the script you are working with. Talented actors can only do so much, but ultimately the script must work. An actor is just one of the variables."

"(A flop) may bring more caution (from studios), but if the studio feels it has a vehicle that fits Jim Carrey's character... It's often a matter of timing," said Mr. Logsdon.

Kevin Thomas, a Los Angeles Times movie critic, said it was too soon to prepare Carrey's Hollywood obituary.

"No one in town is prepared to write Carrey off yet. They have too much savvy and realise you can't have a huge hit every time you go to bat. He's had too much recent success."

"Look at Arnold (Schwarzenegger), he struck out with Last Action Hero."

Carrey himself has likened the reaction to his artistic transformation to the furore among folk music fans when Bob Dylan went electric in the mid-1960's.

In an interview with Reuters before the movie was released, Carrey was asked if he was worried that audiences would tire of his clown character.

"Oh sure, a little bit, but I've already had so much success I could kind of quit now and say thanks very much. (But) I just really would like to keep working, and hopefully keep growing and keep challenging myself and then the audience grows with me or else I lose a few and I gain a few in a different area. That's OK with me."

Asked about future roles, he said: "People think it is up to me it's really not I'm reacting to the marketplace."

### Punk pioneers stage foul-mouth comeback

LONDON (R) — The Sex Pistols, notorious for their foul mouths and irreverent punk rock in the late 1970s, performed in Britain Sunday for the first time in 19 years before a crowd of 30,000.

All four original members, now in or approaching their 40s, were in the reformed line-up — singer Johnny Rotten, who these days prefers his real name, John Lydon, drummer Paul Cook, guitarist Steve Jones and bass player Glen Matlock.

Matlock was ousted at an early stage because of his suspect music tastes — he liked the Beatles — but his replacement, the unhinged Sid Vicious, died from a heroin overdose in 1979 while on bail, charged with the murder of his girlfriend.

"Fat, 40 and back," Lydon told the audience in north London.

"Thank you all for coming to our little... party," he added, using one of his most famous expletives. They played all the old hits, including the mould-breaking Anarchy In The U.K. and God Save The Queen, an anti-royalist tirade released to coincide with Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee celebrations, to the outrage of the middle classes.

The Pistols shook up the music business at a time when pretentious rock bands had taken to playing stadium concerts, remote from their fans.

They revolted parents with their loutish behaviour — particularly an infamous interview complete with profanities on prime-time television — but spearheaded the emergence of the so-called new wave of bands that revitalised the music scene.

The latest tour started



Johnny Rotten, frontman of the legendary punk-band the Sex Pistols, performs at the 20th open-air concert in St.Gallen, Switzerland, on June 30 (Reuters photo)

inauspiciously in Finland last Friday, when the young audience hurled bottles at the band and seemed to prefer a local band, the Leningrad Cowboys.

That probably hasn't worried them.

The four are rumoured to have banked as much as £1 million (\$1.5 million) each for the series of European concerts, dubbed The Filthy

Lucre Tour.

Lydon is well-known for his cynical attitude to the music business and the fans in thrall to it, and was quite open at a news conference in March on why the band members had put aside their legendary loathing for each other to perform again.

"Happily we found a common cause to bring us back together again," he said. "Your money."

### China issues first state regulations on film industry

BEIJING (AFP) — China has issued its first state-level regulations covering the film industry, with the focus on protecting intellectual property rights in the sector to ensure its future prosperity, reports said Saturday.

The 64-clause regulation, which came into effect on July 1, covers areas such as the production, import and export, circulation, projection and censorship of various kinds of films, including features, documentaries and educational movies.

Among the articles governing censorship is one that lists criteria for banning films, such as those that harm state sovereignty and security, incite "splittism," reveal state secrets or promote pornography, superstition and violence.

According to Liu Jianzhong, director of the film bureau under the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television, the regulations come at a time when China's film industry is facing major problems of smuggling of audio-visual goods, rampant piracy and widespread pornography.

The regulations stipulate that film producers own the copyright of their movies and should be paid accordingly when the works are duplicated, circulated, projected, broadcast, published, translated or adapted.

Videos made from the films must first be approved by the producers.

Lu Zhaozheng, deputy director of the film bureau, said the regulations

would bring increased earnings for film studios which currently depend solely on the limited income of film projection.

"We not only need to make greater efforts to protect the copyrights of homemade films, but we also should respect the copyrights of overseas films in China," Mr. Lu said, admitting that ignorance of IPR legislation was widespread.

The regulations also stipulate that five per cent of box-office earnings will be claimed by the government for a special "film fund."

The percentage will be collected from cinemas, auditoriums and clubs, which are prohibited from raising ticket prices to cover the extra charge.

The fund is used to promote better quality domestic movies, as well as to help poor counties and autonomous regions purchase movie projectors.

"It is not a case of the more the better. Generally, we will have to consider a balance in the foreign movies and we have to leave some space for local production," he said.

Industry sources said that imported movies faced competition from pirated copies and a preference to watch video tapes at home where it was more comfortable and cheaper.

Mr. Liu said that distributors would have to buy the latest movies and screen them as early as possible to satisfy moviegoers while striking at pirates.



# Arteries scanned by world's smallest camera

By John Newell

'No Problems'

THE WORLD'S smallest ultrasound camera has been developed by British doctors and engineers to scan the insides of coronary arteries. It works on the same principle as those used to examine unborn babies but is less than one millimetre in diameter.

The detailed scans provided by the camera will improve the treatment of coronary thromboses. By revealing the exact nature of thickening in the arterial wall the device will help to ensure that the best treatment is given and that ultrasound scans will avoid the need for a lot of unnecessary surgery.

## Computer Conversion

Although it is extremely small, the device contains 64 crystals — transducers that convert electric current into vibrations.

Each transducer vibrates in turn to produce a beam of soundwaves — vibrations pitched too high for the human ear to hear. These bounce off the walls of the artery and are picked up by the transducers working in reverse, converting the soundwaves into electrical signals that are fed down a fine wire to the outside of the body, where a computer converts them into detailed 3D moving pictures of the inside of the artery.

The space inside the coronary artery is only about three millimetres in diameter. As seen by the ultrasonic eye it looks like the inside of a pipe, a new clean pipe if the person being scanned is young and healthy; a corroded old pipe with lumps of matter sticking to its walls if the artery belongs to someone threatened by heart disease.

The mini ultrasound camera is the brainchild of Dr. Martin Rothman, a consultant cardiologist at the London Hospital and the medical director of Intravascular Research, the British company now making the device. He chose ultrasound rather than light as a means of imaging partly because even the finest fibre-optic cable is too thick to squeeze into the coronary artery, and partly, as Dr. Rothman points out, because sound can "see through" the murky surroundings.

"It can pass through a blood-filled environment and it can also pass through the tissue of the artery wall," he says. "If you use light you have to get rid of the blood and replace it with a clear liquid while you are taking pictures. And the heart doesn't like that over a long period; it can only stand it for five to ten seconds, whereas with ultrasound you can work inside the blood with no problems for the patient."

X-ray pictures of arteries are taken by injecting a soluble substance that makes the blood opaque to X-rays into the circulation. The whole artery shows up black in the picture and any narrowing is clearly visible, but there is no detail at all of what's inside. Dr. Rob Dickinson, technical director of Intravascular Research, had the job of making Martin Rothman's dreams of what he'd like to see come true.

Dr. Dickinson says, "You can now see the inside of the artery as if you had sliced it in half and were looking at each half. You can see any of the artery's blockages, which of course are the main medical problem, and you can see their extent. And because the ultrasound can slice through the arterial wall you can see the detail actually inside the arterial wall."

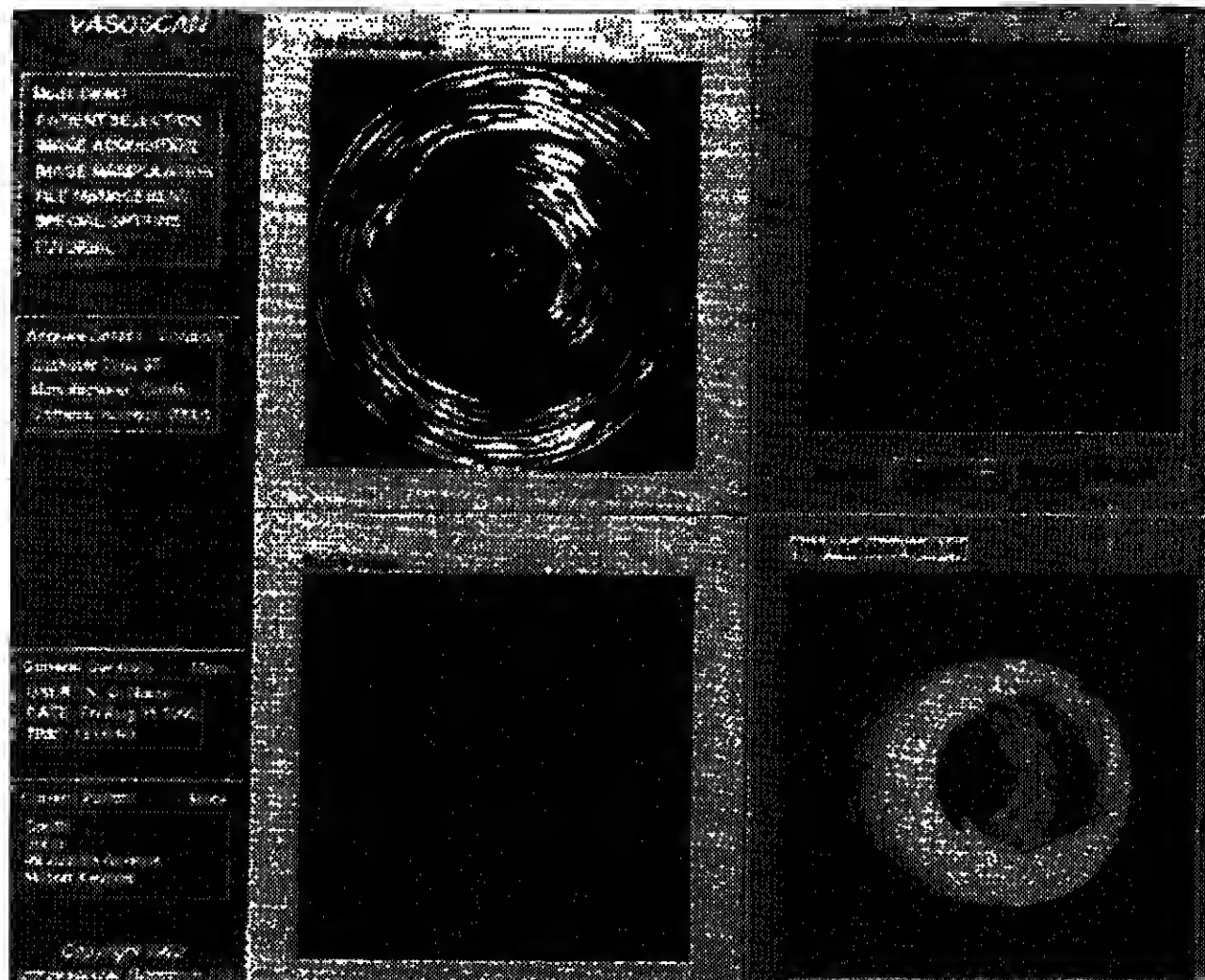
"This enables us to tell if the artery is normal or if it has abnormalities such as fatty deposits or if it's hardened with calcium, another common problem. And that tells us how to treat the artery on the spot. We can then put in some other catheters (fine flexible tubes) that we use to treat the particular problem we've just seen."

## Treatment Version

The ultrasound camera is inserted into the coronary artery by first inserting a catheter into an artery near the groin and gently pushing and guiding it up till it gets to the entry to a coronary artery. Then a fine wire with the camera on the tip is pushed up inside the catheter and down the artery, taking pictures as it goes.

If an artery needs to be opened up in the standard way, then the whole procedure has to be repeated with another catheter carrying a tiny balloon on its tip, which is pushed into a point where the artery is dangerously narrow and then inflated to expand the artery and clear the blockage.

This is called balloon angioplasty and is much the most common treatment for narrowed arteries. Alternatively, a



The Vasoscan image acquisition display screen showing 3D volume (bottom right)

small metal cage may be fitted in the artery to keep its walls apart. Martin Rothman and Rob Dickinson are already working on a Mark 2 version of their device which will carry a balloon and cage on the same catheter as the camera, so that as soon as the camera has located and diagnosed the problem the treatment can follow immediately. That is a few years away, but a slightly larger version of the sound camera is already undergoing clinical trials — LPS Feature.

## Mixed news on breast cancer-pill link — report

LONDON (R) — Women have a slightly higher chance of contracting breast cancer when they are taking the contraceptive pill but there is no long-term increase in risk for former pill users, a worldwide report said.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) said their investigation involved information on 53,000 women with breast cancer in 25 countries and comprised virtually all the worldwide

evidence available on the pill and breast cancer.

In 10,000 women who used the pill when aged 25 to 29, about 49 breast cancers would be diagnosed in the period from the start of use up to 10 years after stopping, compared to 44 cancers diagnosed in women who had not taken the pill.

The small increase in the number of breast cancers was evident only in women taking the pill and in the 10

years after stopping.

"After women come off the pill this excess declines, disappearing completely after 10 years," Dr. Valerie Beral, head of the ICRF's study group said.

"The absence of any increase 10 or more years after stopping is found consistently for all groups of women studied — young women, older women, women with a family history of breast cancer, women of different ethnic origin," she

said.

It was also true regardless of how old women were when they began taking the pill, how long they took it and what type of pill they took, she said.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, killing about 500,000 each year worldwide. More than 200 million women have used the pill and an estimated 100 million currently take it.

## Cradle of AIDS still its worst victim

By Maggie Fox  
Reuters

LONDON — Poverty and population growth have become lethal partners of the HIV virus that causes AIDS, helping it reach epidemic proportions in the developing world.

Africa, the cradle of AIDS, is still the region hardest hit by the deadly syndrome, but Asia is quickly catching up.

"More than 90 per cent of all adults with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries," says the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in a briefing prepared for the 11th international conference on AIDS which opens in the Canadian city of Vancouver this week.

The numbers are staggering. More than 13 million adults in sub-Saharan Africa are infected more than half of them women. More than 25 per cent will pass the virus to their babies.

More than 18 per cent of all adults in Botswana are infected, 17 per cent in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Most Africans catch it through heterosexual contact.

"It's a very old epidemic in Africa," says Tony Burton, an epidemiologist at UNAIDS in Geneva.

"There is good evidence that the virus started running in the mid to late 1970s in those areas. It had time to go before people started to know there was a problem."

The situation is improving, he said. "There is evidence from several countries that the prevalence is starting to level off and even decline," he said, naming Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

"It looks like in Uganda for example, young men in particular are starting to have sex later. They are also decreasing their number of partners."

People were also overcoming what has been a huge resistance to using condoms. "Whether that is the result of educational programmes or people just seeing friends and neighbours and relatives die, we cannot establish."

The news is more disturbing from

Asia — especially India. "About 20 per cent of the infections globally are in Asia," Mr. Burton said. "India has more infections than any country in the world."

This is, in part, due to the country's high population.

"India is second to one (China) in population and second to one in HIV," said I.S. Gilada, secretary of the Indian Health Organisation, a voluntary outfit crusading against AIDS.

Mr. Gilada called the bustling commercial capital of Bombay "a ticking AIDS bomb."

Nearly two per cent of Bombay's 13 million population is HIV positive, he said. Sixty-five per cent of the city's 70,000 prostitutes are infected.

The highest prevalence (rate compared to population) of AIDS is in Thailand, where just over two per cent of adults are infected — most via the sex districts that abound there.

Mr. Burton said there was evidence that an aggressive education campaign was helping in Thailand. In Bangkok's notorious Pat Pong district, for example, stalls have been set up where free condoms are handed out.

"Thailand has universal conscription (and) they've been testing these new recruits for HIV and found the prevalence among Thai military recruits is declining," Mr. Burton said.

Some scientists say prostitution and drug use alone are not enough to explain the rapid spread of AIDS across Asia.

Max Essex, an AIDS researcher at Harvard University, believes there are two forms of the virus — one that transmits through blood cells and another that uses mucosal cells, such as those found in the genital area.

"This explains why the risks of heterosexual transmission appear so much higher in Africa and Asia than in the West," he told an AIDS conference in Maryland last February.

Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in France, who is credited with isolating the virus, said societal differences were also to blame.

"People living in the North (industrialised countries), with better hygiene, have poorly stimulated immune systems, so there are relatively few immune cells for the virus to infect. In the South, with microbes and poor hygiene, there are many more immune cells around to be infected," he said.

One such microbe is the tuberculosis bacillus — long a companion of Asia's indigenous masses.

"Tuberculosis is a problem in a couple of ways," Mr. Burton said. "First of all, if you are HIV positive and don't have tuberculosis, if you are exposed you are more likely to get infected."

"One of the additional scary things is, if you have active tuberculosis, you are much more likely to transmit, which means we are seeing a rise in TB among people that are not HIV infected."

Mr. Burton points to another troubling new trend in the so-called developing economies of the ex-Soviet Union. There, unemployment teams up with increasing drug use and promiscuity to give HIV an open door.

"In January 1995 Ukraine was seeing about 1.4 per cent HIV prevalence in injecting drug users," said Mr. Burton, who visited the country in June. "In August it was 13 per cent. We can't find anything but huge increases."

Health workers are sometimes despairing about the ignorance that sustains the spread of AIDS.

A government survey last year among 1,200 men in four cities in the Philippines showed that 46 per cent believed they could stave off HIV through prayer or taking vitamins. Many thought HIV could be transmitted through mosquito bites.

"Some of these countries are still in denial," Mr. Burton said.

"When was the U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking? I think it was about 1950. But people are still smoking. I think the urge to have sex is a little stronger than the urge to have a cigarette."

## Immune system drug 'helps AIDS patients'

LONDON (R) — U.S. biotechnology firm Amgen Inc.'s immune system-boosting Neupogen helps AIDS patients fight life-threatening infections and may help some to live longer, researchers said Thursday.

The drug, just licensed for use for AIDS patients in Britain, has a definite effect on the immune system, doctors told a news conference.

Neupogen boosts the numbers of neutrophils, white blood cells that fight infection. It is widely used to treat neutropenia, a failure of the immune system that affects a third of AIDS patients.

It makes them even more vulnerable to infections by bacteria, fungi and viruses.

Dr. Mark Nelson, an AIDS expert at London's Chelsea and Westminster

Hospital, said up to 30 per cent of patients with the HIV virus that causes AIDS developed neutropenia.

He said he had been working with Neupogen and it worked.

"It gets the neutrophil count up, improves neutrophil function and should be useful in preventing bacterial and fungal infection," he said.

Other researchers said some patients were able to stop taking the common AIDS drug AZT because Neupogen worked so well.

"The important thing to point out is that neutropenia is a frequent complication of HIV infection, and that neutrophil counts can be protected and enhanced by using Neupogen," said Jonathan Weber, a professor of genito-urinary medicine and communicable diseases.

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) Time, place, location.
- (2) Anne Nichols.
- (3) Sarah Kemble Siddons.
- (4) Richard Mansfield.
- (5) Charles Chaplin and Harpo Marx.
- (6) "Abraham Lincoln," written by John Drinkwater.

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### PUZZLES

(A) Hidden Animal Names:

The smallest animal: MOUSE.

The other animals are:

- BISON
- KITTEN
- WARTHOG
- GIRAFFE

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SEAWORLD  
By Stanley B. Whitten

**ACROSS**

- Standards of perfection
- Yacht
- The three wise men
- Polish
- Smelling
- Arthur at TV
- Cultural medium
- Florida game fish
- Texas food
- Trickiest
- Cuddles
- Champion's word
- Champion's word
- That's it, I'm out
- Concubine
- Warty amphibian

**DOWN**

- Supper
- Warty amphibian
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Diagramless, 17x17  
By Frances Burton

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Last Week's Cryptograms

**1. Famous chemist conceals new product he calls world's most fantastic elastic plastic.**

**2. Proud naval ensign designs engine to run on very cheap coal, but nobody can ignite the liquid, so he resigns.**

**3. Boss has problem about new girl becoming computer literate. She "doesn't do windows."**

**4. Scrob best you can with fancy shampoo, it cannot wash off a permanent tattoo.**

**CRYPTOGRAMS**

**1. UJJE MJETC QENHA PC ENEL FEE TNE**  
**JVF EKH SEJQT EPTEC QEPAN JM EEE**  
**XJQE SDEEL'G EDAM.** — By Earl Ireland

**2. JDYEA, DFIYZQX TWPZIOYJ GTWZIQ,**  
**ODLEDD BIVMP ODP JTQALJOTE RID**  
**MPIDTQE DPZ RYOD BYO MIOTQ, EDV PKCP**  
**BIO GDP GJZPSTQX OTT** — By Bob Talmadge

**3. TAKGOS TRUCE TDNOL TENO TRUOG ICX**  
**RIGOR VG I TRIALS BEGGER NCKKO PBE**  
**SUGGER POKKT.** — By Dennis H. McGee

**4. LD FROG SDIUTLANGIDIT TEED, FIUFTI**  
**GNUSANG RBEUDI PNU PRO OLDLOGRY**  
**PED OLDLOGIC.** — By Ed Hollibaugh

## SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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John Noble Wilford  
NEW YORK — In an attempt to establish a refuge for refugees fleeing religious persecution and to escape Spanish power in the South, France in 1500 dispatched an expedition of two ships and 150 men under Jean Ribaut along the coast of North Carolina. Ribaut decided to build a fort overlooking a bay he called "one of the greatest and finest in the world."

The fort was abandoned and disappeared, leaving without a trace, the centuries. Historians speculated on the location, and explorers and archaeologists have just as they were beginning to excavate the site of the fort, the remains of the fort were discovered. The fort was abandoned and disappeared, leaving without a trace, the centuries. Historians speculated on the location, and explorers and archaeologists have just as they were beginning to excavate the site of the fort, the remains of the fort were discovered.

Stanley A. Burton and Anthony Nichols, who excavated the site of the fort, revealed that the fort was built on a hill overlooking the sea. The fort was abandoned and disappeared, leaving without a trace, the centuries. Historians speculated on the location, and explorers and archaeologists have just as they were beginning to excavate the site of the fort, the remains of the fort were discovered.

King receives message from President A...



# Site of a failed French colony is unearthed in U.S.

By John Noble Wilford

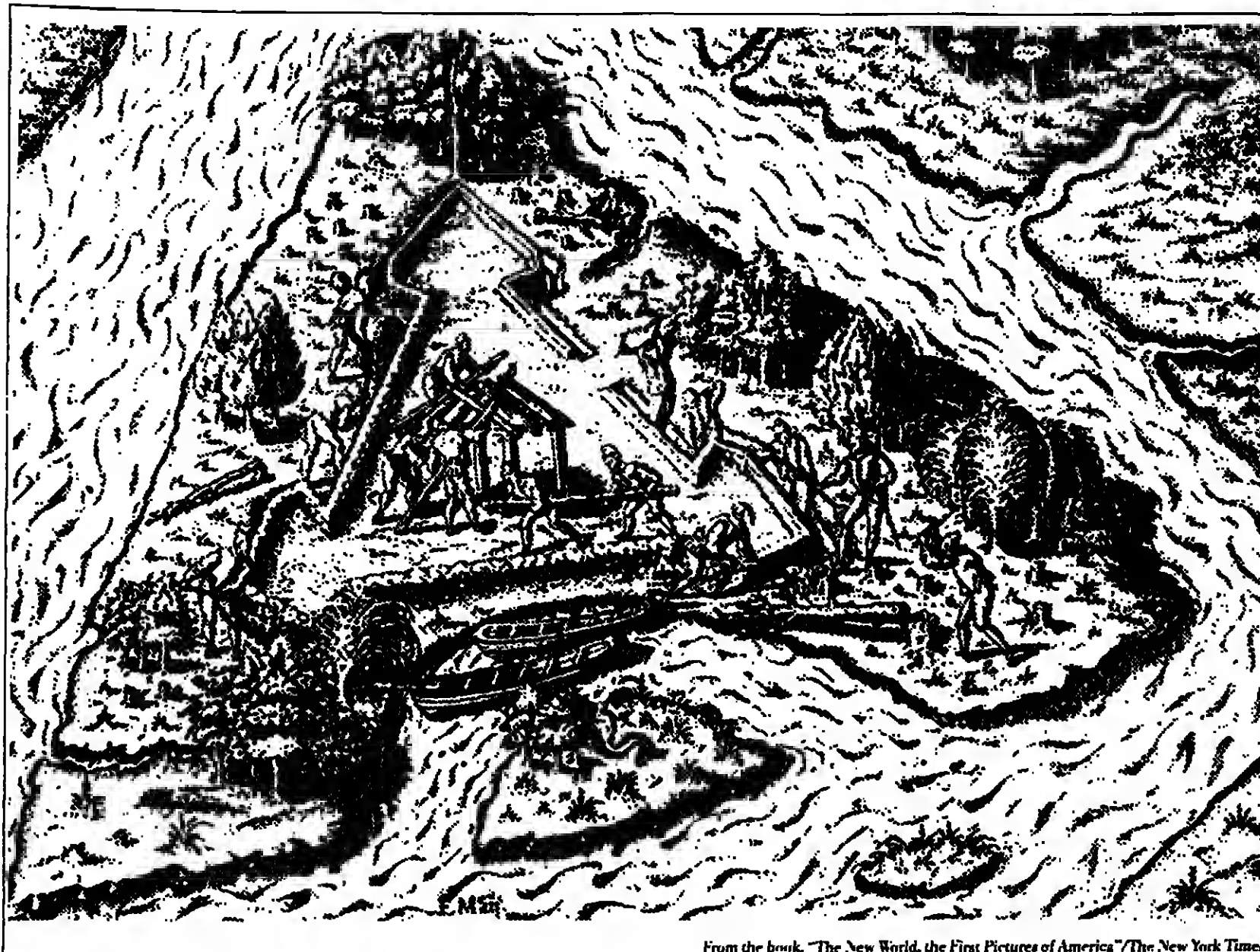
NEW YORK — In an attempt to establish a refuge for Huguenots fleeing religious persecution and to challenge Spanish power in what is now the Southeastern United States, France in 1562 dispatched an expedition of two ships and 150 men under Jean Ribault. Somewhat along the coast of present-day South Carolina, Ribault decided to build a fort overlooking a harbour he called "one of the greatest and fairest havens in the world."

This was the first attempt by the French to plant a colony on land that is now part of the United States. It came three years before the founding by Spain of St. Augustine in what is now Florida, North America's first permanent European settlement outside Mexico. It would be more than two decades before the English attempted to settle at Roanoke Island in North Carolina and 45 years before the first successful English settlement at Jamestown in Virginia in 1607.

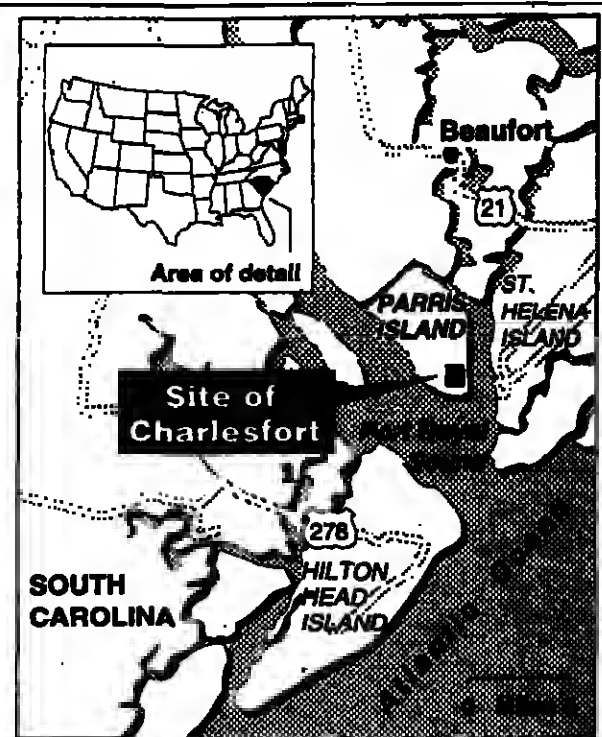
Ribault named the garrison Charlesfort, for the 12-year-old French king, Charles IX, but the colony foundered in less than a year. The fort was abandoned and disappeared, seemingly without a trace. Over the centuries, historians have speculated on the fort's location, and explorers and archaeologists have searched the coast in vain.

Now, just as they were running out of places to look, archaeologists from the University of South Carolina in Columbia said they have uncovered the site of Charlesfort. It is under the edge of a golf course on the Marine Corps training base at Parris Island, near Beaufort, and across Port Royal Sound from Hilton Head. The French fort had escaped detection in modern times because the Spanish, moving in 1566 to restore control over the region, had built the town of Santa Elena and a fort, San Felipe, over the ruins.

Chester DePratter and



From the book, "The New World, the First Pictures of America" / The New York Times



**A 16th-century engraving shows Charlesfort, the short-lived French colony on the South Carolina coast. The site, long obscured, was recently found by two American archeologists.**

Stanley A. South, professors at the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, made the discovery late last year while excavating the 20-acre site of Santa Elena. A combination of archaeological and documentary clues led them and a colleague, James Legg, to suspect that Santa Elena had been built on the Charlesfort site, and a reexamination of ceramics found earlier at the site revealed that they were not only French but from the 16th century. This seemed to clinch matters.

"It's been a puzzle for decades, and I've been looking for the fort since 1979," Mr. DePratter said in a telephone interview.

"Now the riddle is solved. We know where Charlesfort is."

The discovery was important, Mr. DePratter and Mr. South said, because the French outpost not only was strategically significant when the French and Spanish were competing for control of what is now the Southeastern United States, but also startled the Spanish into strengthening their hold on the region with new forts and settlements.

"Despite the fact that Charlesfort's occupation was brief, its construction triggered a strong Spanish military response that resulted in the destruction of the 1564-65 French settlement on the St. John's

River in Florida, as well as the settling of St. Augustine and Santa Elena by the Spanish," Mr. DePratter said.

Historians and archaeologists familiar with the research agreed that the mystery of Charlesfort had very likely been solved. Eugene Lyon, a scholar of early colonial history at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, said the evidence supporting the discovery appeared to be strong, though he tended to minimize the influence of Charlesfort on subsequent Spanish action. He noted that this French threat had been erased before the Spanish even knew of its existence. Instead, Mr.

Lyon thought the second Huguenot colonizing attempt, in 1564 at Fort Caroline on the St. John's River near present-day Jacksonville, Florida, caused the Spanish more consternation and led to a quickening of their settlement efforts. Ivor Noel Hume, retired director of archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, examined the excavated ceramics and confirmed that they were 16th-century French. He praised the archaeologists for succeeding "in the difficult task of separating the traces of Charlesfort from those of the Spaniards' Fort San Felipe."

"No longer will France in

the New World be epitomized only by Quebec and New Orleans," Mr. Noel Hume said.

It may be a stretch to compare Charlesfort with Quebec. Ribault said the fort he built measured "in length but sixteen fathoms and thirteen in breadth" — about 30 metres by 25. A moat surrounded the palisade, and bastions serving as gun platforms stood at the four corners, though a 16th-century drawing showed only three bastions. A house of wood and earth, with a straw roof, was erected inside the fort.

As soon as construction was completed in early June 1562, Ribault left for France to obtain supplies

and recruit more settlers. He left Albert de la Pierre in charge of 26 men and promised to return in six months. But France was in the throes of civil war and was no place for a Protestant. So Ribault went to England for help, and was imprisoned as a spy.

As the months dragged on, morale back at Charlesfort sank lower and lower. A fire destroyed most of the supplies. Mutineers killed de la Pierre; built a ship and sailed for France in April 1563, only 11 months after Ribault had brought them to the new land. The only member of the colony to remain in the New World was a boy named Roffi, who had run away and

taken refuge among Indians. It was he who later told a Spanish expedition of the failed French enterprise.

In 1566, one year after starting St. Augustine, the Spanish began building the town of Santa Elena on Parris Island and placed Fort San Felipe exactly over the ruins of Charlesfort, making use of the moat the French had left behind. This colony lasted 21 years, and for a time served as the capital of Spanish Florida. Santa Elena, too, was a long-lost colony, found in 1979 by archaeologists led by Mr. South of the University of South Carolina.

International Herald Tribune

## King receives message from President Assad

(Continued from page 1)

counter Israeli policies which reject the handing back of occupied Arab lands, including the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, Reuters reported.

"The issue that gathers all Arabs should gather all Muslims because the dangers which threaten them are of one source as the new Israeli government overtly announced it would never return Jerusalem...the Golan and South Lebanon..." the official Syrian newspaper Tishreen said.

"This stipulates that all of the faithful people, Arabs and Muslims, should unite their ranks and powers

because what harms Arabs harms Muslims."

Tishreen said Syria's mediation between Bahrain and non-Arab Iran was prompted by the need for Arab-Islamic solidarity to confront Israel.

"The successful Syrian initiative...was based on the necessity to strengthen Arab-Islamic solidarity," Tishreen said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, after a diplomatic shuttle, said on Tuesday his mediation produced Iranian-Bahraini agreement to stop media attacks against each other. Bahrain accused Tehran of supporting a plot to topple its government. Iran denied the charge.

## King, Rifkind review ties, Middle East peace process

(Continued from page 1)

embassy in Amman, Mr. Rifkind briefed the King on his visit to Saudi Arabia and the talks he had with the Saudi leadership.

Mr. Rifkind's talks in Aqaba, which followed a highly successful visit to Saudi Arabia where he met King Fahd, also touched on Iraq and Britain's efforts to help Jordan and similar states in the Middle East to win more Western investment.

But the first few minutes of the talks in the King's seafloor palace in the resort of Aqaba were taken up with discussion of Eoghan's recent semi-final

defeat by Germany in the European soccer championship, with King Hussein expressing his sympathy.

On a political note, Mr. Rifkind told King Hussein the Saudi ruler had expressed warm support for the Jordanian Monarch, confirming the recovery of relations between the two states strained by Jordan's perceived sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf war.

British officials said Mr. Rifkind also expressed support for the strong position taken by Jordan against the Iraqi regime to the past year.

Mr. Rifkind said the two men had an "identity of views" on the need for

Baghdad to meet in full the conditions for a U.N. oil-for-food accord.

"There is, I believe, an identity of view that humanitarian help to the people of Iraq is of course desirable, but we must ensure that the implementation of this resolution is not abused by the Iraqi regime, that there is no diversion of resources for improper purposes," Mr. Rifkind told reporters.

"Of course the whole proposal itself is potentially time limited. After six months it is possible to discontinue 986 if there was evidence of abuse of the system," he added.

Netanyahu and his right-wing government not only angered the Arabs but was raising questions in the West about Israel's intentions.

"With their extremist and reckless statements they are able to create a threat to the peace process in a region considered the heart of the new world order," Dr. Shaath added in an interview in the London-based Arabic daily Al Haya.

He said this would make it easier for the Palestinians to rally support, adding it was tougher when former Prime Minister Shimon Peres was in power because "in the eyes of the world he was a messenger of peace."

Dr. Shaath also said that Mr. Netanyahu's rejection of a complete separation between Israel and the Palestinians — which he fears will lead to a Palestinian state — was useful for the fledgling economy in the autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian National Authority lost millions of dollars since Israel closed off the territories after deadly bomb attacks in February, preventing Palestinian labourers from entering Israel.

## 'Egypt better off without U.S. aid'

(Continued from page 1)

between Cairo and Washington "on the peace process and other matters," but denied any tension between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Mr. Musa contacted his Israeli counterpart David Levy for the first time since Mr. Levy took office, the government daily Al Ahran reported Wednesday.

Mr. Levy contacted Mr. Musa by phone to discuss the "latest developments in the peace process" late Tuesday after the Egyptian diplomat arrived in London, Al Ahran said.

Mr. Levy underlined that his country "is interested in continuing to work with Egypt to continue the peace process," the paper said.

Mr. Musa in turn said their joint efforts "must follow the principles adopted at the (1991)

Madrid conference and the agreements already reached on the various tracks of the peace process."

Contacts between Egyptian and Israeli officials have come nearly to a standstill since Mr. Netanyahu won May elections amid Arab criticisms of his hardline positions in the peace process.

The telephone call was the first reported contact between the two foreign ministers since Mr. Levy took his post in late June.

The paper said the two ministers agreed to maintain their contacts "to support the peace process and strengthen relations" ahead of the first visit by new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Egypt, expected in July.

Mr. Netanyahu is to visit Egypt and Jordan after a trip to Washington on July 9.

## Exit poll shows Yeltsin winning

(Continued from page 1)

presidential council, told reporters that the margin of victory for Mr. Yeltsin over Mr. Zyuganov "corresponds to our forecast."

"The struggle for turnout boosted the votes against both candidates. I think in eastern regions turnout is about 63 per cent, meaning that Mr. Yeltsin got just less than 50 per cent, Mr. Zyuganov a bit more than 40 per cent and about 10 per cent voted against both," he said. Another member of Mr. Yeltsin's

council, Mark Urnov, said that "according to our forecasts, Mr. Yeltsin will win by three million votes" out of a total of 106 million.

Turnout nationally was 60.5 per cent two hours before polls closed at 1900 GMT — six per cent lower than at the same time in the first round, Mr. Yeltsin's support committee said, citing figures from the central electoral commission. Mr. Urnov said turnout in the "red belt" — rural Communist strongholds south of Moscow — was lower than in the first round.

## Afghan PM asks Pakistani counterpart to open Kabul road

KABUL (AFP) —

Afghanistan's new prime minister has asked his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto to reopen the main road linking Pakistan with besieged Kabul for humanitarian reasons, a source said here.

"Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has sent a letter with a special delegation to Mrs. Bhutto asking her to allow the free passage of food to help the starving people of Kabul," the source from Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami said.

"At the moment only certain vehicles with special permits are allowed to bring restricted items to Kabul from Peshawar, and we want this system to be broadened for humanitarian reasons," he added.

The call came just a week after Mr. Hekmatyar, leader of the former opposition Hezb-i-Islami, was installed as premier after signing an alliance pact with the government here. The main roads leading to Kabul, which is hemmed in on three sides by the Islamic Taliban militia who are trying to topple the government, have been intermittently sealed by various warring factions — including the Hezb — or subjected to enormous road taxes. Impoverished Kabulis battled through one of the hardest winters here early this year after all the main supply routes were cut, causing food and fuel shortages and sending prices skyrocketing.

ANSWERS

NOT KNOWN

(Continued from page 1)

strates how imprecise the Oslo accords are."

"The agreements are so vague that each paragraph can be fought over in new and lengthy negotiations," Mr. Mokbel said.

Mr. Netanyahu's government programme has already ruled out the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, further land concessions to the Palestinians, the creation of a Palestinian state and any negotiations over Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the youth wing of Arafat's Fateh movement threatened Wednesday to launch a new intifada or uprising if Israel's new right-wing government does not abide by its autonomy accords with the Palestinians.

The Fateh Youth movement gave Premier Netanyahu a week to pull Israeli troops out of the West Bank town of Hebron, free Palestinian prisoners and return to the negotiating table under the existing accords.

"If the (Israelis) chose to throw peace in the sea, we will throw it into hell and this time the explosion will be even more violent and

## Palestinians, Israel clash head on over land-for-peace

bloody," the group said in a statement.

"The attacks in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon will seem like minor operations in comparison," it said, referring to a series of militant suicide bombings that left 58 dead in February and March.

Fateh Youth, which has thousands of members, played a large role in the intifada against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from 1987 to the launch of self-rule in 1994.

It said it would not hesitate to "take up arms again if the government does not honour the commitments made by its predecessor."

But Israel said on Wednesday it would close for a week the Cave of

the Patriarchs, traditional burial site of the Biblical Abraham, to drill troops stationed there in the West Bank city of Hebron holy to Jews and Muslims.

An army spokeswoman said the army would from July 7-11 bar worshippers from the cave where a militant Jewish settler shot dead 29 Palestinians in February 1994.

"The Cave of the Patriarchs will be closed next week...to Jewish and Muslim worshippers. The cave is closed periodically to train and drill the unit that safeguards the worshippers and also for refurbishing and improving the site," she said.

Nabil Shaath, a key aide to Mr. Arafat and a peace negotiator with Israel, said recalcitrance by Mr.



## Closure costs Palestinians \$600m

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian official called Wednesday for Israel to stop bringing in workers from Europe and Asia and give jobs back to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. More than 200,000 workers from Romania, Thailand, the Philippines and other nations have come to work in Israel since the government imposed a closure to prevent terrorist infiltrations from the West Bank and Gaza.

Mohammad Shatayeh, head of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, said a study by his office found the Palestinian economy lost \$ 600 million this year and unemployment jumped to 68 per cent. "All of it is because of the closure and security measures at checkpoints," Mr. Shatayeh said in an interview with the Associated Press. Mr. Shatayeh, whose agency oversees foreign assistance to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority, said aid had not filled the gap created by the closure.

He said international donors had pledged \$800 million this year but only \$100 million had been received. "Israelis have to start terminating the long-term contracts with foreign labourers that they have brought in from abroad," he said. The call to put Palestinians back to work has found some sympathy within the new Israeli government. Interior Minister Eli Shaisa said recently he was "astonished and shocked" by the number of illegal foreign workers in Israel, warning their presence was a "social time bomb."

## Israel's Netanyahu scores victory on budget

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scored his first victory Tuesday as his right-wing cabinet approved a treasury proposal to cut nearly five billion shekels (\$1.6 billion) from the 1997 budget. The cabinet voted 12-5 in favour of a 4.9 billion shekel cut, which will help the government fight inflation, now running at 15 per cent a year. The stock market rallied on the news.

A meeting is expected to be held early next week to decide where to cut, allowing Mr. Netanyahu to deliver the news to the U.S. administration when he flies to Washington on July 8. Mr. Netanyahu had given strong backing to Finance Minister Dan Meridor to cut the budget, despite opposition from other cabinet members. Among those who voted against the cuts were Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy.

## Dollar's rise stirs worries among Japanese businesses

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese are beginning to worry about the effects of a rise of the dollar on the economy and Prime Minister Hashimoto expressed concern Wednesday about recent rapid changes in the value of the U.S. currency. "It's not good for a currency to fluctuate rapidly," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters, saying he preferred exchange rate movements to remain "within a certain range."

The prime minister was referring to the dollar's advance above 110 yen here on Tuesday. This was the strongest level for 29 months and represented a 38 per cent increase in value against the yen since it fell to less than 80 yen a year ago. The dollar held above 110 yen here throughout Wednesday, moving from 110.16 yen to 110.37 yen. It was at 110.29 yen in late trading.

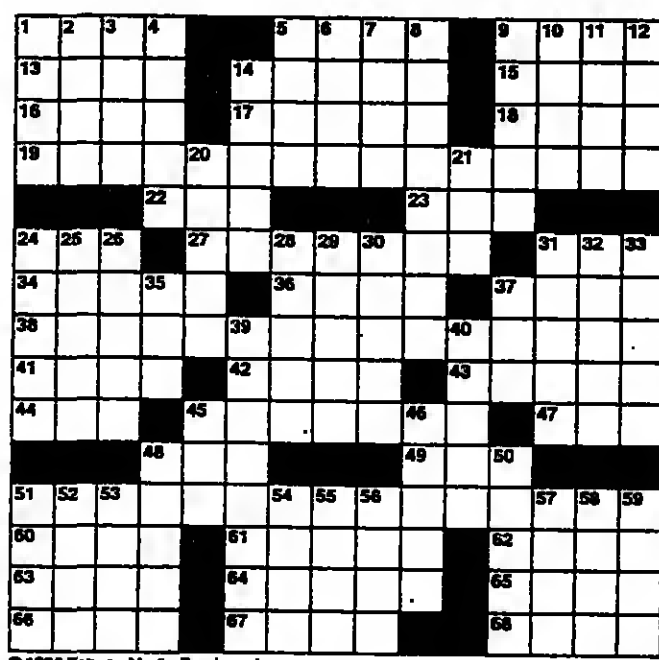
Analysts say the Japanese economy will be able to stave off possible negative impacts from the rise of the dollar if the currency stays at about 140 yen, but further appreciation could be damaging. "At the 110 yen level, we will start seeing not only favourable effects but also negative effects on the economy, but the problems are not so bad at 110 yen," said Tokyo Research Institute analyst Toshio Sumi-

tani. "But if it goes up to 115 yen, it's not going to be easy for the economy," Mr. Sumitani said, referring to upward pressure on prices and interest rates, as well as the possible adverse impact on corporate earnings. Bank of Japan governor, Yasuo Matsushita told a regular news conference the dollar-yen rate was moving "in the trend expected by the G-7 (Group of Seven industrialised countries)." Mr. Matsushita said he saw "little possibility that the rising tempo in domestic prices will strengthen" due to the ongoing decline of the yen against the dollar, although it has set import prices firming since April.

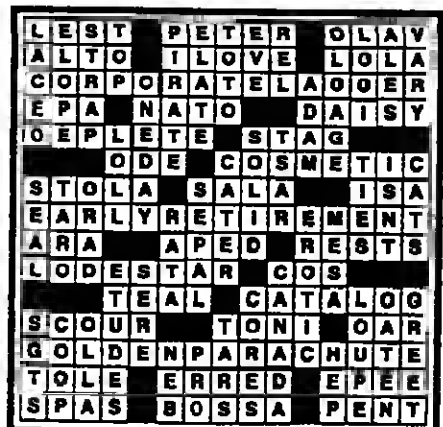
Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. said in a survey Wednesday that the rise of the dollar would boost Japanese manufacturers' earnings, while depressing the performance of non-manufacturing companies. At 110 yen to the dollar, manufacturers would post an average 24.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to next March, but non-manufacturers would suffer an average 3.0 per cent profit fall, it said. The gap between the two sectors would widen at 115 yen, with manufacturers seen enjoying an average 33.9 per cent year-on-year profit growth while non-manufacturers would have an average 4.7 per cent decline.

## THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

- ACROSS
- Wallp
  - Put on cargo
  - Exhort
  - Riley's life?
  - Manicurist's milieu
  - Pent
  - Clumsy boats
  - Spark
  - Flair
  - GG?
  - Gormandized?
  - not (witticism)
  - Shoulder enhancer
  - Second chance suits
  - Oval circuit
  - Month
  - Swiss river
  - Ponder
  - li?
  - Native American
  - Lab burner
  - Gung ho
  - Mil. place
  - Typical
  - Feminine ending
  - Elle, in English
  - A Cole
  - CC?
  - It may be tell
  - Clear wrap
  - Southern constellation
  - Opera
  - Get around
  - Manipulates dishonestly
  - Pleased
  - Coin
  - Deserves
  - Trattoria serving
  - Vicinity
  - Charge
  - Burros
  - Nobleman
  - du Diable
  - Vanished kiwi cousin
  - Sot free
  - Prairie
  - Ingredient
  - Windy city, for short
  - Foolish
- DOWN
- Official symbol
  - Ending for table or silver
  - Queries
  - Physicist Nikola
  - Not of the cloth
  - The "A" in T.A.E.
  - Mover and shaker
  - Dignities
  - Stem's opposite

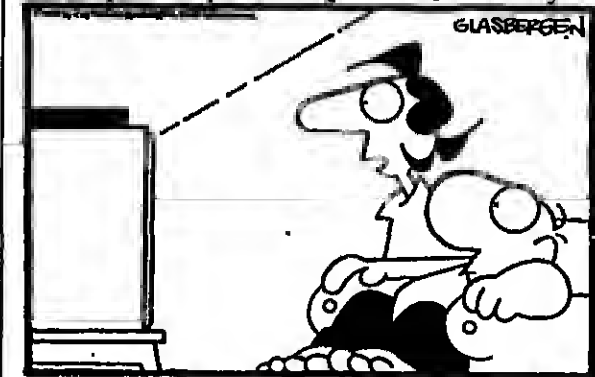


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- 48 Great golfer
- 50 Powerful persons
- 51 Kind of party
- 52 Bucket
- 53 "Hawkeye"
- 54 Sitarist Shankar
- 55 Small drink
- 56 Marquis de
- 57 Legal paper
- 58 Like omelets
- 59 Flower

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Abs of steel, buns of steel, thighs of steel...how come nobody wants brains of steel?"

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 5, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are highly inspired how to make a project successful today, and then use a practical plan of operation toward the end. This evening will be good for you and your mate to stay home and have a romantic time together.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) A thoughtful act can please your family today and then get busy with whatever practical affairs need fast attention. Later this evening you can spend time with fellow associates and devise some method of operation for your success.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Others can come to you today for advice and help with a project for which they know little about, so be willing to assist and through this effort you will get the recognition and praise of some bigwig who can make you successful.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A fine idea you have to improve your monetary matters can be made better with the aid of a prominent person. Later this evening you can discuss the operation of some new project and plan the strategy for its completion.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) If you are more practical in trying to gain your objectives today, you can have much more success with them. This evening will be good for you and your loved ones to get away in some special place of interest.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You want to gain personal aims and your fellow associate could be most helpful to you in this. Later tonight you should speak to some knowledgeable person and bigwig for the advice on your method of operation.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Do something thoughtful today for a friend who can do much to help you in some practical affair and can make your life very successful. You can later this evening meet with some close friend for some fun activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If you meet with a bigwig today at some charming spot, then you can get backing of projects which are important to you and to the financial situation of your loved ones. So make every effort to please this individual.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have a novel manner of getting things accomplished today as you like them to be, however, be sure to assist your loved ones with important duties you have put aside and you can make great success in your career activities.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) Be sure to handle duties which will please your mate today, then you have time to enjoy a hobby with a good friend. This evening will be good for going out on the town and have a wonderful time with your loved ones.

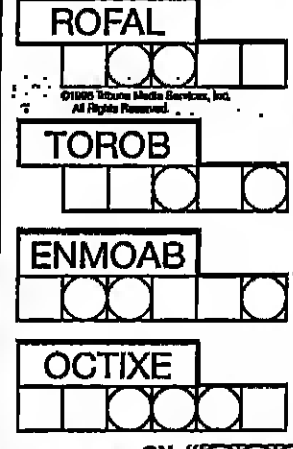
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do something special today to indicate that you wish to continue the relationship you have developed in your career activities and by doing so you will be able to show your willingness to advance to great heights.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to be more efficient at your career activities today and perfect your talents before meeting with a powerful person who has your ability for financial prosperity in the palm of his or her hands and you can be successful.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: ON THE

Yesterday's Jumble: ELATE FOLIO TURBAN POLITE

Answer: Colliding with a soda truck can do this to traffic — BOTTLE IT UP



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 4, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Go ahead with the big plans you have made today regardless of the negativity you meet from a fellow associate. Later tonight you can meet with some bigwig and plan the strategy for a new project.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) You have a good idea how to improve conditions at home today, though it may be a little costly to proceed at this time. This evening should be good for you to go out on the town with fellow associates and be successful.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit a worldly, tense condition interfere with important duties connected with fellow associates. This evening will be good for you to spend much time with your loved ones and have a pleasant time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at practical matters today and forget a private anxiety. Try to increase your income and assets by analysing your financial situation and come up with some plan of action which will be quite beneficial to you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Go after personal desires today which mean a great deal to you and avoid one who is endeavouring to force you to do something you do not approve of. Later this evening you can see close friends and have a good time together.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have private aims today which can help you to advance your career and steer clear of a bigwig who is furious and could take it out on you. This evening will be good for going out on the town with your mate and have fun.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be with a generous friend today who can be of great assistance to you concerning some new project and forget about going off on some silly departure. Later this evening you should be with close friends and have some laughs.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get right at civic duties you have attended to today and don't allow a boring person waste your time. Concentrate on your organisation and decide the best method of operation to gain the success you are looking for at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get away from home early today and pursue advanced ideas through which you can make big headway towards you being successful. Later this evening will be good for you to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study how to get your practical affairs operating more efficiently today and profitably. Have more faith in your mate this evening or you could find yourself in a difficult situation which could cause a disagreement.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Your fellow associate wants to have an important discussion with you today so put aside your desire for recreation at this time. Later this evening will be excellent for going out on the town with some knowledgeable person.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be sure to listen to what a fellow associate has to suggest today, since you are not so full of good ideas at this time. This evening you can meet with some knowledgeable person and discuss your career activities and determine the best course of action.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye



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## Dream Team newcomer finds Olympic thrill

CHICAGO (AFP) — Gary Payton, a last-minute replacement on the U.S. Olympic basketball "Dream Team," has found the gold-medal quest a greater thrill than reaching the National Basketball Association final.

"You represent your country and play with 11 great players and you play against different countries," Payton said. "Fans are looking for gold. For the gold to go around my neck will be a great experience."

Payton and Seattle teammate Shawn Kemp guided the SuperSonics to the NBA final last month, where they lost to the Bulls in six games. Both Seattle players had been passed over before for a berth on the Olympic squad.

But when Glenn Robinson resigned from the team with an injury, a space was opened and Payton was picked, bringing backcourt experience and his honor as the league's best defensive player to the team.

Payton does not mind being a last-minute substitute.

"Some of the posters and stuff has been changed to put me on it," Payton said. "It's no big thing. I'm just coming in to have fun, play with these guys and win gold for the United States."

Kemp's taunting and antics two years ago at the World Championships kept him from being selected for the Olympic team.

"I know Shawn is probably wishing good luck to me," said Payton, who said he has not spoken to Kemp since being named to the squad last Friday.

This Dream Team knows to be on its best behaviour after the spectacle that a younger group made in 1994 at the worlds.

"Nobody is thinking about that," Payton said. "The people on this team don't have that stuff in their game. They have been telling us about it. But we don't have that kind of conduct on this team."

Payton said this team will not compare itself to the 1992 original.

"We don't do that. We just have to win," he said. "We just have to put a team away. We don't have to beat teams by 40 or 50 points."

We are here to win the gold. That's what matters."

Payton is among the free agents who begin signing contracts next Tuesday. He wants a deal done before the Olympics open. That means 10 days or less for negotiations and reaching a contract.

"It's exciting. But I want to know what my status is," Payton said. "I don't want to go into these games and read about I'm going here or there for this. I told my agent I want to get it done in a matter of days. That quickly. Don't spend time on this. Just sign me and let me get focused."

## Portugal's Futre joins West Ham

LONDON (R) — Portuguese international striker Paulo Futre joined West Ham on Tuesday on a two-year contract with an option for a third year, the club's assistant manager Frank Lampard said.

Futre, 30, was signed on a free transfer from AC Milan where he played just four games last season due to a knee injury.

"I have had a bad time and a difficult operation but I've been training since March and I'm now okay," he said at the club's Upton Park ground. "I hope nothing will happen again."

Futre joins a foreign legion at West Ham which includes Croatian Slaven Bilic, Denmark's Marc Reeper, Czech Luděk Mikulsko and Romania's Ilie Dumitrescu.

He started his career at Sporting Lisbon before moving to Atletico Madrid, Porto, Benfica, Marseille, Reggiana and Milan.

"He is quick and skilful and will score a few defences," Lampard said. Defender Richard Hall, 24, was also introduced on Tuesday as a new West Ham signing.

The former England under-21 captain quit Premier League Southampton after failing to agree new contract terms with the club.

The fee for his transfer will be decided by a tribunal, with Southampton demanding around 1.5 million pounds (\$2.3 million).



Germany's Erik Zabel (left) wins in a mass sprint the third stage of the 83rd Tour de France between Wasquehal and Nogent-sur-Oise (195KM). Zabel won ahead Italy's Mario Cipollini (right) and France's Frederic Moncassin (centre). Moncassin holds the leader yellow jersey (Reuters photo)

## Zabel wins stage, Moncassin captures overall Tour lead

NOGENT-SUR-OISE, France (R) — German Erik Zabel defeated sprint favourite Mario Cipollini to win Tuesday's third stage of the Tour de France and Frederic Moncassin finished third to capture the race leader's yellow jersey.

Italian Cipollini, who had won Monday's second stage, looked set for another victory until the power-

ful Zabel produced his effort in the last 50 metres to cross the line narrowly ahead.

Moncassin had started the day's undemanding 195-km. ride from Ronbaix in second place, one second behind Switzerland's Alex Zülle.

Frenchman Eddy Seigneur, who lives near the finish of Tuesday's

stage, seized his chance by breaking away with five other riders some 50 kms from home.

The group was soon reduced to three as only Italian Marco Lietti and Spaniard Jose Luis Arrieta could follow Seigneur on the straight, flat roads through the fields of the Oise Region.

But the teammates of the

leading sprinters then woke up a lazy pack, which was over an hour behind schedule, and Seigneur and his companions were reined in with seven kms remaining.

Cipollini launched the sprint but could not stop Zabel, a winner of two stages last year, from collecting the third stage victory of his Tour career.

## Souness takes over at Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON (AFP) — Former Liverpool and Rangers manager Graeme Souness was named by Southampton as their new boss on Wednesday.

Souness, sacked by Turkish club Galatasaray at the end of last season after 12 months, takes over from Dave Merrington, who was dismissed by Saints last month.

The former Scottish International will be in charge of team matters at the Dell, with Lawrie McMenemy continuing as director of football.

McMenemy said: "We are delighted to have someone of Graeme's Calibre at the club. He was our first choice."

"He is someone who will have the respect of both the public and the players. The senior players report back on Monday, so the timing is right."

Southampton ensured their place in next season's Premiership with a goalless draw at home to Wimbledon on the final day of last

season.

### Souness factfile

1953: Born Edinburgh, May 6.

1968: Joins Tottenham as apprentice.

1972: Moves to Middlesbrough.

1973: Makes league debut, going on to make 176 league appearances for the club.

1974: Helps Middlesbrough win promotion as champions of the old second division. Makes debut for Scotland in 3-0 Hampden win over East Germany.

1978: Signs for Liverpool for 350,000 and goes on to make 247 league appearances for the club, winning five titles, three European cups and four league cups.

1984: Joins Italian top-flight club Sampdoria for 650,000.

1986: Wins last of 54 caps for Scotland against West Germany in the World Cup in Mexico (also played in the 1978 and 1982 tournaments).

Returns from Italy to join Rangers as player-manager for 300,000. Leads the Glasgow Club to three league titles and four Skol cup wins. Also Scottish Cup runners-up in 1989.

1991: Returns to Liverpool as managerial successor to Kenny Dalglish.

1992: Enters hospital for triple heart by-pass operation 24 hours after FA Cup semifinal draw against Portsmouth.

Liverpool go on to beat Sunderland at Wembley with Souness there to watch them lift the trophy.

1993: Hits out at Liverpool players after FA Cup third round defeat by Bolton. Club goes on to suffer worst season for 30 years. Leaves Anfield.

1995: Appointed manager of Galatasaray.

1996: Sacked by Galatasaray after end of Turkish season, appointed manager of Southampton on July 3 in succession to Dave Merrington.

## Tyson to fight July 13, eyes WBA title and more

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Mike Tyson wants to fight anybody with a crown to fulfill a dream that helped him through three years in prison, the dream of reclaiming his undisputed world heavyweight boxing title.

Tyson is here preparing for a July 13 fight with champion Bruce Seldon for the World Boxing Association crown.

Seldon is the next step in Tyson's road to reclaiming the glory he last held in 1990.

Seldon has displayed a weak chin and little power

in knockout losses to Oliver McCall and Riddick Bowe.

The World Boxing Council crown Tyson won from Frank Bruno in March will not be at stake because Britain's Lennox Lewis has a court order mandating he be the next challenger for that crown.

Lewis was paid four million dollars to step aside for an assurance he would be Tyson's next foe. But Tyson is expected to surrender the WBC title and fight Evander Holyfield in October instead of Lewis.

Should Tyson drop the WBC title, it would leave Lewis and Oliver McCall to

fight for the vacated crown, the winner at some point in 1997.

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### Government of Jordan

Invitation for Expression of Interest Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) and Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation are planning to establish (set-up) a Jordanian fair under the name "Jordan International Fair". The main objective for establishing this fair is to provide facilities to accommodate local, regional and international exhibitions that take place in Jordan. In addition facilities would be provided for delivering lectures, conducting meetings...etc.

The site for the fair has been chosen 10 km South-West of Amman, close to the highway leading to Queen Alia International Airport. The 230,000 sq.m. site is already provided with the required infrastructure (water, electricity, roads and telephone lines). It is proposed that the fair facilities would include the following:

- \* Exhibition Halls.
- \* Meeting Rooms.
- \* Storage Rooms.
- \* Fast Food Restaurants.
- \* Rest Rooms.
- \* Car Parking.

This project is based on a Build, Own and Operate or Build, own and transfer approach. As such, companies with experience in setting-up, holding and operating similar ventures are cordially invited to submit their expressions of interest, along with a profile of the company's experience in similar projects, not later than July 30, 1996 to:

Eng. M. Batayneh  
Director General  
Jordan Investment Corporation  
P.O. Box 3294  
Amman-Jordan  
Fax. No. 962 6 816915

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
A TOUCH OF DECEPTION

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 4 6 4	♠ Q 10 9 6 5	♠ 7 2	
♥ 9 8 4 3	♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ J	
♦ A 10 5 2	♦ J	♦ 8 7 6 4	
♣ A K	♣ 5 2		

SOUTH		WEST	
♠ 7 2	♠ 10 8 6 5	♠ 4 3	
♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ 10 8 6 5	♥ 9 8 7 6 3	
♦ 4	♦ 10 9 2	♦ 5 2	
♣ Q J 10 9 2		♣ 4 3 2	

The bidding: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♠ 2♠ 3♠ 4♠  
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠. West, defending against four hearts, found a simple yet effective way of painting a false picture of the distribution. As a result, declarer went down in a contract that would surely have succeeded otherwise.

East made a bold effort to shut the opponents out of the auction. Although South did not have much on the way of high cards, the distribution was such that a bid of four hearts could not come to much harm.

West led the king of spades, and most defenders would continue the suit. On the third round declarer would ruff with the queen, intending to finesse West for the jack on the next round, and the defenders would come to only two spades and the ace of trumps.

It appeared that the only hope for the defense was to take two trump tricks to go with two spades, so at trick two West shifted to the king of diamonds. That created in declarer's mind an impression that West had started with a singleton spade and that East held a seven-card suit — completely consistent with the auction. Thus, there was a distinct possibility that West had started with three trumps.

It appeared that declarer could explore this possibility at no cost. After winning the ace of diamonds at trick two, declarer led a low heart from the table to the queen. Although South expected to lose that trick, the option of finessing for the jack of trumps would still be open.

Unfortunately, the roof fell in. West grabbed the ace and reversed to a spade. East won and continued the suit, and West's ruff with the jack was the setting trick.

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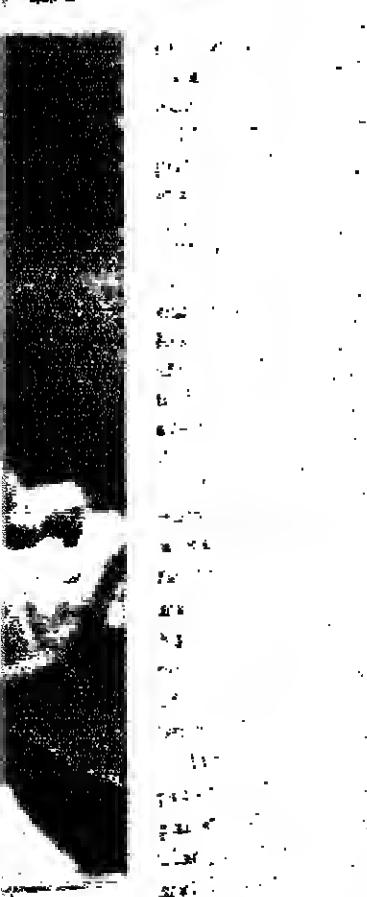
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